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NEXT TO BANK.

and I said "Yes," so he tinkled a little bell and sent a clerk to buy a copy in Fleet street. I was not sure about the date, but the clerk, who was such a nice boy, said he could search the file.

By the time I had finished the book returned with the newspaper. Mr. Warden changed his spectacles and said "Hum!" and "Ha!" several times while he was reading the paragraph. Then he put on the gold ones again and gazed at me.

"You are a very remarkable girl, Millicent," he said. "I suppose my story sounds odd," I answered, "but it all happened exactly as I have told you, and there is hardly anything that takes place in Dale End which the gang cannot form a reliable opinion about."

"The gang?" he repeated. "I beg your pardon; I meant my animal friends, but of course you don't quite believe in them."

"I believe that you talk to them and thus teach yourself to express your views very clearly. At any rate, we can let that pass. May I see this phenomenon of a ju-ju?"

I smiled, because I was expecting him to say that. "If you don't mind," I explained, "I would rather show it to you in the train this evening."

"This evening? Are we not going to Dale End at once?" "I shall not be ready until nearly 6 o'clock. I have a lot of things to do. Are you quite sure you will meet me at the station?"

He was positive, he said, but he was distressed at the notion that I would be hours and hours alone in London, so the nice young clerk was ordered to take care of me. I led him rather a dance, and the way I spent Schwartz's gold seemed to give him a pain. Mr. Warden promised to telegraph to Mam to tell her I was quite safe and that we would both be home about 7, but he was so astounded by my adventures that he wrote Southend in place of Dale End, and the telegram reached us in a letter two days later, with Mr. Warden's apologies. Do you know, I am convinced the ju-ju had something to do with that. If Schwartz had heard who Mr. Warden was he might have smelt a rat. And isn't it odd, as Bob pointed out, that Southend should come after West End and Dale End and Ostend and Mile End?

The clerk and I had lunch and tea together, and he insisted on paying, though I had ever so much more money than he in my pocket. By the time we reached Waterloo he looked rather tired, because we took no more cabs, and I went to lots of places I wanted to see, so I bought him a box of cigarettes as a present, and he said he hoped I would often come to London on business.

Mr. Warden was waiting for me, and the moment the guard set eyes on me he came running up.

"So you're here, are you, Miss Grosvenor?" he cried. "A fine thing you've bin and gone and done. All Dale End is inquirin' after you, an' your pore father is nearly wild."

Mr. Warden gave him a shilling, saying it was all right. But it wasn't. When we reached our station and began to walk to the Lodge, as Bob was not there to meet us, every person we met turned



and followed us until there was quite a mob at our heels when we crossed the green. We didn't know then that Mr. Banks, our policeman, had all the negroes, including Prince John, locked up in his tiny police station. Jack and several men from the manor were helping him to mount guard over them until more policemen arrived, as the Dale Enders wanted to lynch the black men, which would have been a sad job for everybody.

Our escort blocked the road in front of our gate, but they did not venture to come inside the grounds. Dan was the first to hear the noise, and he barked. Then he caught my step on the gravel, and Mam will never again say that a dog can't speak, for he told her quite plainly that I was coming.

Well, you can guess all the crying and kissing that went on and how Dad tried to be angry while he took me in his arms, but Mr. Warden spoke about the telegram and declared he would write to the Times and the postmaster general. Tib climbed up on my shoulder, and Rikki gave my hand such a queer little lick, while Poll did several lightning twists on the crossbar and whistled, "Won't you come home, Bill Bailey?" I heard dear Bob neighing in the stable, and I went to kiss his velvety nose the first minute I could spare.

Mr. Schwartz was really as delighted as anybody that I had turned up, so he failed to notice how cool Mr. Warden was when Dad introduced them. I had hardly got my hat and jacket off and was hugging Mam for the tenth time when Dad called me into the morning room, where he and Schwartz and Mr. Warden were standing.

Solicitors can be very sharp if they like, and our lawyer surprised me with the way he tackled Schwartz.

"My young friend here," he said, meaning me, "tells me she has promised to restore to you a certain article known as a ju-ju, which you lost on Christmas eve."

"Yes," said Schwartz quite calmly. You see, he was a smart man of business, and I suppose he was not afraid of lawyers or he would not have been able to keep all the money he was worth.

"Well," went on Mr. Warden, "she is prepared to hand it to you in return for your quitance of her father's obligation to find you a thousand shares in the Kwantu Mines, limited."

That staggered Schwartz somewhat, but he said in a husky voice, "I fail to understand you."

"That is a pity. I wish to avoid a scandal. If you compel candor, I shall be obliged to tell you who is the real owner of that property,

Continued on Next Page

STATE TO PREVENT INFANT BLINDNESS

Health Commissioner Dixon Says One-Third of the Cases of Blindness Can be Prevented.

MOTHER SHOULD CALL DOCTOR

Old Law to Be Enforced That Will Secure Proper Treatment For New-Born Infants and Save Loss of Eyesight.

To guard new-born infants against that terrible misfortune, blindness, State Health Commissioner Dixon has revived a state law passed some years ago for just this object, but never enforced to any extent. This law, passed June 26, 1895, is entitled "An act for the prevention of blindness, imposing a duty upon all midwives, nurses or other persons having the care of infants, and also upon the health officer, and fixing a penalty for neglect thereof."

Dr. Dixon declared today "that if the provisions of this law are carried out there is reason to hope that one-third of the cases of blindness which so greatly diminishes the productive value of the individual and too often renders him a burden on society may be prevented."

Letter to Physicians.

To ten thousand physicians throughout Pennsylvania Health Commissioner Dixon is sending the following letter:

"You are probably aware of the fact that the American Medical association at its last annual meeting authorized the issue of the report of the committee on ophthalmia neonatorum, which forcibly called attention to the fact that a very large percentage of the cases of blindness which the state is called upon to support is caused by that disease, and urged the necessity for organized and concerted effort on the part of the profession in all of the states of the Union to diminish this evil. That this appeal is most timely is sufficiently indicated by a recent report from the Pennsylvania School for the Blind, which shows that in the past eight years more than one-third of the persons admitted to that institution have owed their affliction to this cause.

"This department has, therefore, thought it desirable to revive a law which has for many years lain dormant on our statute books, and a copy of which is herewith enclosed.

"Inasmuch, however, as I doubt the wisdom of entrusting the treatment of so delicate an organ as the eye to unskilled hands, I have appended to the law instructions making it the duty of the health officer to urge those in charge to secure the services of a physician at the earliest possible moment after the discovery of the disease, and have suggested a harmless cleansing solution to be used until such time as the physician could arrive and initiate the active treatment for which the nitrate of silver or some other silver salt will probably be deemed most effective. May I hope for your assistance in carrying out this plan for diminishing a fertile cause of misery and disability?"

Instructions to Health Officers.

The state department of health has sent to each of its 730 township health officers full instructions as to their duty under the law. These instructions are as follows:

"In order to carry out the provisions of the above law it becomes your duty to acquaint yourself with the names and addresses of all midwives and nurses residing or practicing in your district, and to place a copy of the law in the hands of each, instructing her as to its requirements.

"Immediately on receiving notification from a midwife or nurse of the occurrence of a case of red or swollen eyes in a young infant you will inform the attending physician of the fact and will place in the hands of the midwife or nurse the accompanying instructions, explaining that she is to follow them only until a physician arrives to take charge of the case. If no physician has been employed, you will urge upon the family the necessity for obtaining one, as otherwise the child may become permanently blind."

Here is the prescription given for treating inflamed eyes in new-born infants until the physician arrives:

"To one pint of boiled water add two teaspoonfuls of boric acid and half a teaspoonful of table salt and keep covered in a jar which has been boiled. With a perfectly clean cloth or a wad of absorbent cotton bathe the lids with this solution and drop a few drops in the eye three times a day."

State Health Commissioner Dixon has also requested the department's medical inspector in every county in the state to assist the health officers in the discharge of the duty assigned them. A letter has also been written to the secretary of every city, borough and first class township board of health in Pennsylvania, calling their attention to the law and urging that these boards adopt such measures as will lead to its early enforcement in the municipality under the local board's jurisdiction. The wording of the act of June 26, 1895, is as follows:

The Law.

"Whereas, Statistics compiled in this country and Europe demonstrate that fully 25 per centum of the blind owe

their affliction to an inflammation of the conjunctive appearing a few days after birth; and

"Whereas, Experience has proved that the inflammation can be cured and the eyesight saved in the majority of cases if treatment be instituted at an early state of the disease; and

"Whereas, Destruction of the eyes and blindness are usually the result of delay of treatment.

"Section 1. Be it enacted, etc. That should one or both eyes of an infant become inflamed or swollen or reddened at any time within two weeks after birth, it shall be the duty of the midwife or nurse, or other person having the care of such infant, to report in writing, within six hours after the discovery thereof, to the health officer or legally qualified practitioner of the city, town or district in which the mother of the child resides, the fact that such inflammation or swelling or redness exists.

"Section 2. That it shall be the duty of said health officer, immediately upon receipt of said written report, to notify the parents or the person having charge of said infant of the danger to the eye or eyes of said infant by reason of said condition from neglect of proper treatment of the same, and he shall also enclose to them directions for the proper treatment thereof.

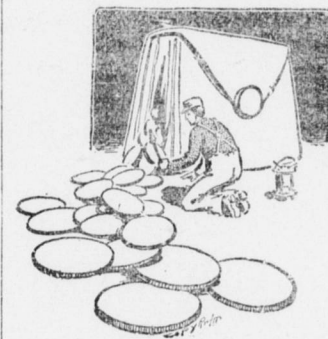
"Section 3. Every health officer shall furnish a copy of this act to each person who is known to him to act as midwife or nurse in the city or town for which such health officer is appointed, and the secretary of state shall cause a sufficient number of copies of this act to be printed and supply the same to such health officers on application.

"Section 4. Any failure to comply with the provisions of this act shall be punishable by fine not to exceed \$200, or imprisonment not to exceed thirty days, or both."

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