

A VERY REMARKABLE CASE.

Resuscitation of a Woman After Apparent Death by Hanging.

[New York Sun.]

In The London Lancet is recorded a case of resuscitation after apparent death by hanging, so remarkable as to be worthy of notice and discussion outside of purely professional circles.

The case is reported by Dr. Ernest W. White, senior assistant medical officer to the Kent lunatic asylum at Chatham, near Canterbury. The patient was a woman 53 years old, afflicted with that form of insanity known as melancholia. She had tried to kill herself by several attempts to take her life after being received into the institution. Finally she succeeded in escaping the watchfulness of the attendants, who had frustrated her previous efforts at self-destruction, and hid herself in a bath-room, where she was found hanging to a ladder by a cord formed of portions of her dress, eight minutes after she had been seen alive by another patient.

When cut down she was apparently quite dead. Animation was so completely suspended that there was no symptom which enabled the medical men present to distinguish her condition from that of real death. This is the remarkable feature of the case. So far as the doctors could see, the woman was dead. The skin was ashy pale, the surface temperature very low, the lips were livid, and the eyes dilated and insensible to the action of light; there was no pulse at the wrist or temples; no definite heart-beat could be detected even by the stethoscope; respiration had absolutely ceased, and unconsciousness was complete. Even the application of galvanism failed to contract the muscles. If the woman had been a criminal who had suffered the extreme penalty of the law, the physicians would doubtless have pronounced her dead; yet she is alive to-day, and not only well, physically, but fast recovering from all mental derangement.

Dr. White and his assistants wisely refused to act upon appearances. They gave their patient the benefit of the doubt in their minds, although that doubt was very slight. Resort was had to artificial respiration according to what is known in medicine as the Sylvester method. The movements were performed slowly—only ten times a minute—but about ten minutes after they began an exceedingly feeble attempt at natural respiration was noted, and very weak pulsations of the heart were perceived by the aid of the stethoscope. Ten minutes is a long time to wait for the first signs of returning life, and it is to be feared that in many cases of apparent death, especially by drowning, the measures necessary for resuscitation are not continued long enough to rekindle the smoldering spark of life that remains in the body. There can hardly be too much patience or perseverance. In this case artificial respiration was steadily maintained for two hours before the natural breathing was sufficiently established to dispense with assistance in this way. If it had been abandoned earlier the woman would probably have died, notwithstanding her partial restoration to sensibility.

We need not follow the treatment in detail. The patient became imperfectly conscious about eleven hours after the act of strangulation, and in the course of a fortnight was in good bodily health. She lost her melancholy illusions and became cheerful, looking back at her attempt at suicide with horror. For two days from the time of hanging, however, her memory was a complete blank.

This extraordinary case is interesting in several aspects. The complete simulation of death suggests a possibility that physicians may sometimes themselves be deceived as to the fact of death, especially careless practitioners or those of comparatively limited information. We have already referred to the lesson which it teaches of the need of steadfast and hopeful perseverance in efforts to restore those who have apparently lost their lives by strangulation or drowning. It would appear that artificial respiration is more useful and effective when the movements are performed slowly than when they exceed ten a minute. This is an important point for those to remember who are called upon to render first aid to the injured. Finally, this remarkable occurrence may well lead to speculation as to the many stories which have been published of the restoration to life of men who have apparently suffered death by hanging on the gallows.

It is probable that fully seven minutes had elapsed between the moment of the act of suspension and the time when the woman was cut down. Who can say that similar measures might not have brought about a resuscitation if she had remained hanging twice as long? And might not a strong man possess the potential ability to recover, with like assistance, from the effects of strangulation lasting half an hour? Who can now assert with confidence that a convict with neck unbroken cut down after hanging thirty minutes, and turned over to friends having all the resources of modern medical science at command, might not be called back to existence in this world?

Such an event is improbable enough we know; but we do not see how it can be pronounced physically impossible in view of the facts to which we have drawn attention.

"Hobson's Choice,"
[Chicago Journal.]

The first man in England to let out hackney horses was Thomas Hobson. He had a large number of horses, but obliged the university students to take his hacks in rotation. When a man came for a horse he was led into the stable and shown the collection, but was obliged to take the horse which stood next to the stable door. Hence the expression, "Hobson's choice," came to signify "this or none." Milton, in 1690, wrote two humorous poems on the death of the old liverman.

A Needed Qualification.
A clergyman who has had extensive experience on foreign mission stations says if he were on an examining committee to send out missionaries one of his first questions would be: "Can you cook?"

PURITAN "COURTING-STICKS."

An Invention Which May Be Deemed Worthy of Revival.

We read in the admirable volume on the recent centennial of Long Meadow, Mass., by Professor Richard S. Starks, of that town, in the winter evenings for the convenience of young lovers, since there was no "next room" courting sticks were used; that is, long wooden tubes that could convey from lip to ear sweet and secret whispers. Was this an invention peculiar to Long Meadow?

It is a charming picture that this calls up of life in a Puritan household, this tubular love-making, the pretty girl (nearly every girl is pretty in the twilight of long ago) seated in one stiff high-backed chair, and the staid but blushing lover in another, handling the courting-stick, itself an open confession of complacency, if not of true love. Would the young man dare to say, "I love you," through a tube, and would he feel encouraged by the laughing, tender eyes of the girl when she replied through the same passage, "Do tell!"

Did they have two sticks, so that one end of one could be at the ear and the end of the other at the mouth all the while? How convenient, when the young man got more ardent than was seemly, as the flip went round, for the girl to put her thumb over the end of the tube, and so to the flow of soul! Did the young man bring his stick, and so announce his intention, or did the young lady always keep one or pair on hand, and so reveal both willingness and expectation? It was much more convenient than the telephone, with its "hello" and proclamation to all listening at each end of the line.

Lovers can make love with anything, even with a telephone, the successful courting of a deaf person (for there is one word that nearly every one likes to hear), as we know, can go on through a speaking-trumpet; but these courting-sticks seem to us the plus ultra of tender communication—when a third party is present. They would be very useful now at large parties, where there is such a din and babble that one can only court a pretty girl at the risk of bronchitis or laryngitis. Sometimes in the jam you cannot get near the girl; but with a long courting-stick you could wile her away from her too ardent admirer. This invention seems to us worthy of revival for many reasons, and we should be glad if any further information in regard to it. Civilization in its progress drops a good many things that ought to be retained.

Holland's Fight with the Sea.
[Good Words.]

After a delicious breakfast of coffee and thick cream, with rusks, scones and different kinds of cheese, always indispensable in Dutch breakfasts, we took to the railroad again and crossed Zealand, which chiefly consists of four islands, Noord Beveland, Zuid Beveland, Schouwen and Walcheren, and is less visited by the rest of the Netherlands than any other part of the country. The land is all cut up into vast polders, as the huge meadows are called, which are recovered from the sea and protected by embankments.

Here, if human care was withdrawn for six months, the whole country would be under the sea again. A corps of engineers, called "Waterstaat," are continually employed to watch the waters and to keep in repair the dikes, which are formed of clay at the bottom, as that is more waterproof than anything else, and thatched with willows, which are here grown extensively for the purpose. If the sea passes a dike ruin is imminent, an alarm-bell rings, and the whole population rush to the rescue. The moment one dike is even menaced the people begin to build another inside it, and then rely upon the double defense while they fortify the old one.

But all their care has not preserved the islands of Zealand. Three centuries ago Schouwen was entirely submerged, and remained for several years entirely under water, only the points of the church-spires being visible. Zuid Beveland has been submerged in the fourteenth century. Walcheren was submerged as late as 1808, and Tholen even in 1825. It has been aptly asserted that the sea to the inhabitants of Holland is what Vesuvius is to Torre del Greco. De Amicis says that the Dutch have three enemies—the sea, the lakes and rivers; they repel the sea, they dry the lakes and they imprison the rivers, but with the sea it is a combat that never ceases.

Old-Time Disinfectants.
[St. James' Gazette.]

Disinfectants are at present, owing to the close neighborhood of cholera, the subject of much discussion, the proverbial differences of doctors rendering it difficult for the public to judge which of the various chemical agents of purification recommended for use are the most serviceable. The same doubts as to comparative efficacy of antiseptic panaceas appear to have existed in the latter part of the eighteenth century, when various experiments in the way of disinfection were tried by the medical authorities. A list of substances alleged to be useful for the desired purpose was at that period drawn up by a Dr. Macbride, who, after speaking of acids as the long prescribed antiseptic agents, added the following substances to his list: Alkalies and salts; gum resins, such as myrrh, a-c-o-i-d-a, aloes and terra japonica; decoctions of Virginia snake-root, pepper, ginger, saffron, sage, mint, contrayerva-root, valerian, rhubarb, angelica, senna, common wormwood; and to some extent, mustard, celery, carrots, turnips, garlic, onions, cabbage, colewort, horseradish, and molasses. Here we have at least variety, and perhaps some of Dr. Macbride's suggestions may be found worth trial.

A Terse Election Speech.
[Chicago Tribune.]

Was ever a terser election speech made than the following? asks a London paper. The speaker was the late Mr. John Peel, and the occasion a meeting at Accrington, when Mr. Peel, who was always very loath to speak, was at last prevailed upon to say a few words. "Men of Accrington," he said, "if you are so backward in coming forward, we shall be all behind, as we were before." He said no more.

Mill App in the Corn-Field.

[Atlanta Constitution.]

Now is the time when I love to take the little chaps around the farm and pull a few big ears of new corn for new meal and big hominy, and it looks like the low ground corn is bigger and fatter than ever before. I find some ears thirteen inches long with eighteen and twenty rows and they will average 1,000 grains and forty of them will shell a half bushel. It is curious how nature figures up her products for I have never yet seen an ear with an odd row. They are fourteen and sixteen and eighteen and twenty but never odd, and it is a mysterious wonder how the tender shoot wrapped up in its newborn shuck always moulds the cob into even numbers and never makes a mistake. Ordinarily it takes 100 ears to make a bushel, and with 1,000 grains to the ear a bushel of shelled corn has 100,000 grains.

Our little chaps are gathering the popcorn now, and the red ears and the yellow ones and the speckled ones look mighty nice all mixed together, and the children will have a good time these long winter nights that are coming. They are talking about nuts and black-haws and May-pops and possums. These little things make up a bright picture in the life of a child, and they treasure sweet memories that do us good in our old age. I don't care much for such things now, but I do care to see the children happy just as I used to be happy in the long, long ago. I can't climb a tree and shake down the nuts; I can't pull up by a muscadine vine hand over hand; I can't run a pony race to the mill like I used to, but I can still meander around with children and grandchildren, and make a corn-talk fiddle and a gourd banjo, and a sassaparilla. If our children would always be children I would willingly be old, just to follow them around, but one by one they grow up and leave us, and soon—very soon—Mrs. App and I will be childless, and all we can do will be to sit together and sing "John Anderson, My Jo."

Nothing is Forgotten.
[C. P. Press and Journal.]

Coleridge, in his "Biographical Literature," relates the case of a young woman about 25 years of age, who could neither read nor write. She was taken sick with a nervous fever in Gottingen, a Catholic town in Germany. During her illness, according to all the priests and monks in the neighborhood, she became possessed of a very learned diction. She continued incessantly talking Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, in very pompous tones, and with most distinct enunciation. The case attracted the particular attention of a young physician, and by his statement many eminent psychologists visited the patient. Sheets full of her ravings were taken down from her mouth, and were found to consist of sentences, coherent and intelligible, each for itself, but with little or no connection with each other. A small portion only of these sentences could be traced to the Bible; the remainder seemed to be in the Rabbinical dialect.

With much difficulty, and much patient inquiry, the young physician traced out her past history, and found that when 9 years of age, she went to live in the family of an ascetic Protestant pastor. It was further ascertained that it was the custom of this old man for years to walk up and down a passage in his house into which the kitchen-door opened, and to read to himself in a loud voice, out of his favorite books. Some of those books were obtained, and so many of the passages which the young woman had uttered were found in the books that there remained no doubt that she had obtained them from hearing him read them. In her normal condition, she probably could not have recalled a single sentence of these Latin, Greek, and Hebrew passages which she repeated so fluently while sick.

Romance of a French Diplomat.
[London Daily News.]

A truly extraordinary story is told by an old schoolfellow of M. Lemaire, late French consul general at Shanghai, and recently appointed minister plenipotentiary at Hue. Twenty-five years ago he was at school at Tonnerre. There, with unconsciousness of his destiny, he was nicknamed Jaunot, on account of his singularly yellow complexion. He was a quiet lad, not brilliant, often bullied by his comrades, and somewhat hardly treated by his professors.

When 15 he passed a vacation with an uncle in Burgundy, and had for a companion a cousin much younger than himself. Their delight was to play at soldiers. Lemaire shouldered a rusty tin gun, and the cousin flourished an old saber. One day it was agreed that they should get up some wine from the cellar, not with any pilfering intention, but merely to play at soldiers' plundering. As the cousin was mounting the cellar stairs, Lemaire exclaimed, "Here is the enemy," and pulled the trigger. The gun, which he did not know to be loaded, went off and blew out the brains of the young cousin. Lemaire's family, horrified at the event, sent him to sea as a cabin boy.

Nothing was heard of him for years, and he sent no letters home. At last it was found out that he had established himself at Saigon, had learned Chinese, and was employed as interpreter at the French consulate. Later news came that he had married a Cochinchinese lady, whether a native or settler is not stated and now the result of that unfortunate shot with the flint gun is that he is recognized as the most accomplished diplomatist that France can find to conduct her affairs among the yellow people. Such is the history of Jaunot.

Baffled.

ONE OF THE MOST UNACCOUNTABLE AND DANGEROUS OF RECENT DECEITS DISCOVERED AND EXPOSED.

There is some mysterious trouble that is attacking nearly everyone in the land with more or less violence. It seems to steal into the body like a thief in the night. Doctors cannot diagnose it. Scientists are puzzled by its symptoms. It is, indeed, a modern mystery. Like those severe and vague maladies that attack horses and prostrate nearly all the animals in the land, this subtle trouble seems to menace mankind. Many of its victims have pins about the chest and sides, and sometimes in the back. They feel dull and sleepy; the mouth has a bad taste, especially in the morning. A strange sticky slime collects about the teeth. The appetite is poor. There is a feeling like a heavy lead upon the stomach, which food does not satisfy. The eyes grow sunken, the hands and feet feel clammy at one time and burn intensely at others. After a while a cough sets in, at first dry, but after a few months it is attended with a grating colored expectoration. The afflicted one feels tired all the while, and sleep does not seem to afford any rest. He becomes nervous, irritable, and gloomy, and has evil forebodings. There is a peculiar whirling sensation in the head when rising up suddenly. The bowels become constipated, and then, again, overflux intensely; the skin is dry and hot at times; the blood grows thick and stagnant; the whites of the eyes become tinged with yellow; the urine's scanty and high colored, depositing a sediment after standing. There is frequently a spitting up of the food, sometimes with a sour taste, and sometimes with a sweetish taste; this is sometimes attended with palpitation of the heart. The vision becomes impaired, with spots before the eyes; there is a feeling of prostration and great weakness. Most of these symptoms are in turn present. It is thought that nearly one-third of our population have this disorder in some of its varied forms, while medical men have almost wholly mistaken its nature. Some have treated it for one complaint; some for another, but nearly all have failed to reach the seat of the disorder. Indeed, many physicians are afflicted with it themselves. The experience of Dr. A. G. Richards, residing at No. 468 Tremont street, Boston, is thus described by himself.

"I had all these peculiar and painful symptoms which I have found afflicting so many of my patients, and which had so often baffled me. I knew all the commonly established remedies would be unavailing for I had tried them often in the past. I therefore determined to strike out in a new path. To my intense satisfaction I found that I was improving. The dull, stupid feeling departed and I began to enjoy life once more. My appetite returned. My sleep was refreshing. The color of my face which had been a sickly yellow gradually assumed the pink tinge of health. In the course of three weeks I felt like a new man and know that it was wholly owing to the wonderful efficiency of Warner's Peppinace The Best which was all the medicine I took."

Doctors and scientists often exhaust their skill and the patient dies. They try everything that has been used by or is known to the profession, and then fail. Even if they save the life it is often after great and prolonged agony. Where all this can be avoided by precaution and care, how insane a thing is to endure such suffering! With a pure and palatable preparation within reach, to neglect its use is simply inexcusable.

Peru Revolution About Ended

New York, September 26th.—The following has just been received from PANAMA:

PANAMA, September 17.—Advices from Lima state the revolution is apparently drawing to a close. Ill success attended General Caceres' attack on Lima, and it served to dampen the ardor of the revolutionaries and strengthen Iglesias' government. The number of killed on that occasion was only about 150 on both sides. Great moral effect is caused throughout the country by the government success. Signor Pizarro, the Italian consul, had his patent withdrawn for sympathizing with the revolutionary party. This is the second case of the kind. Caceres is at present a fugitive, flying from place to place, still doing all in his power to injure the established government. All his officers captured will be tried by court martial. The condition of affairs throughout the republic seems to be regaining its moral standpoint.

The great question at present in Chili is a definition of the relations between the church and the state. There has been a great deal of discussion on the subject of congress, but liberal ideas seem to prevail. A complete separation of the government and church seems probable. The chamber of deputies has approved the arrangement by arbitration of the claims of German and Belgian subjects arising from the late South Pacific war. Peace is apparently about to be restored in those much agitated republics.

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