AN APPALLING CASUALTY

A LINGERING DEATH FROM INJUR IES AT A BLAZING OIL WELL.

A Man Burned Horribly on his Wedding Day Lingers in Intense Suf-fering for Twenty Years.

A recent letter from Tidioute, Penn. to the New York World recites the follow ing reminiscences of a horrible catastrophe: The announcement of the death of Wallace Riley, at Saylorsville, Ohio, recalls the first terrible casualty in the history of petroleum development in this country, of which disaster he was the last surviving victim. It left him a blind and helpless cripple and subject at times to fits of insanity, during which he seemed to suffer all the agonizing experiences through which he passed on the day of needs sleep. the great disaster twenty-three years ago. In April, 1861, there was a cluster of wells on Oil creek yielding from 100 to 300 barrels of oil a day. Harley & Merrick sank a well to the depth of 200 feet, but as the yield was small they took out the pumps and started the drill to make eyes, as it will weaken them. the well deeper. About 5 o'clock in the afternoon of April 16 the drill had gone to a depth of 300 feet when it struck a vein of oil and gas, and instantly the oil rushed up the five and a half inch tubing, hurling the tools high in the air, and gushing up in a fountain fifty feet in height. The well was spouting at the rate of 100 barrels an hour. In a very minutes petroleum was running in streams in every direction. Dams were built and trenches dug to collect the fluid that was running to waste, and in a short time a lake of oil surrounded the derricks.

Wallace Riley, then a young man of twenty-four, arrived at the scene of the excitement at 6 o'clock from Meadville. He was to be married that evening at 8 o'clock to the daughter of a farmer who lived on Oil Creek, near the Harley and Merrick well. Riley went with his prospective father-in-law and joined the crowd at the flowing well. The nature of petroleum gas was then unknown and while the crowd stood about, with no thought of danger, the gas from the spurting well was slowly spreading in every direction and filling the air with its presence. There was no hre nearer than a quarter of a mile to the well. That was in the boilerhouse of a well then drilling. By 7 o'clock in the evening the gas from the flowing well had reached this boiler and taking fire in a second the whole oil was in a flame. With a crash and a roar like the discharge of a field of artillery the fountain of oil became a stream of solid fire, falling back to the ground, over an area of 190 feet, in blazing globes of boiling oil. A scene of indescribable horror ensued. Scores of people were thrown to the ground by the explosion and surrounded by the burning oil. The most of these managed to reach the outer circle of the fire with their lives, but all were horribly burned. At the time of the explosion everything in the neighborhood for a distance of

quarter of a mile took fire, and shanties, derricks, engine houses and dwellings were at once wrapped in flames. The boiler at Dobb's well, eighty rods from the original fire, blew up with a tremendous report, instantly killing the engineer, Wesley Skinner. Among those who were prostrated by the first explosion of the gas was Wallace Riley. He succeeded in gaining his feet and, making his way through the burning oil, fell, all ablaze, on the edge of the fiery circle. He was seized by others, who plunged him in a hogshead of water and carried him to a neighboring shanty. Within the circle of flames, not ten feet from the edge, at the spot where Riley escaned, four bodies could be seen boiling in the seething oil. H. R. Rouse, of Warren county, one of the most prominent of the early oil-producers, from whom Rouseville was subsequently named and whose income from oil wells at the time of the great disaster amounted to \$1,000 a day, was standing near the trench shis man was digging when the explosion occurred. He was lifted in the air and thrown more than twenty feet away, alighting in a pool of blazing oil. He rose to his feet and ran, all ablaze, for a short distance and fell. He was seized by several men, his burning clothing extinguished and he was carried to a shanty. Not a vestige of clothing was left upon him except his stockings and boots. His hair was burned off, as well as his ears, his eyelids and his fingers. His eyeballs were entirely burned out. His body was blistered from the He never lost consciousbreast down. ness but lived nine hours, during which time he deliberately dictated his will to his lawyer. In this will he left \$100,-000 to the poor of Warren county, but he died before he could acknowledge and sign the document. Beside Mr. Rouse, twelve dead bodies were taken from the flames before they were entirely destroyed. Twelve men who were known to have visited the spot, strangers sight-seeing in the oil regious, were believed to have been among not be found and were never heard of allerward. Thirty-four mes were rescued as Wallace Riley was, but their injuries were so great that twenty-two of them died. The scene of the height of the fire is described as having been the most frightful and at the same time grandest spectacle ever witnessed. The flow of oil continued unabated for months, and as no human power could extinguish the flames continued burning furiously. The well finally exhausted itself and the fire was at last conquered. Hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil were consumed, and the well which would have ocen an enormous fortune to the owners ruined them. Wallace Riley was burned in almost axactly the same manney as the unfortunate Mr. Rouse had been. For weeks his sufferings were intense, and he constantly begged to be killed. The young woman to whom he was to have been married on that terrible evening was his constant attendant during all his suffering. His life was saved but he was left sightless and without hands, while his face was terribly disfigured and his lower limbs were fleshless and drawn out of shape. His mind was also badly affected, and although he recovered in a great measure his mental powers, he was subject to frequent lapses, which lasted ometimes for days. During these spells he raved continually about the horrors the agent and assistants to distribute

he died, apparently in the greatest ageny. SOME MODERN SAMSONS. by a brother. The young woman to whom Riley was engaged to be married died within a year after the frightful catastrophe at the burning well.

HEALTH HINTS.

The water that has no taste is pureat; the air that has no odor is the freshest, and of all modifications of manner the most generally pleasing is simplicity.

A solution of gutta-percha in chloro-form (four to thirty) is useful to protect the skin over projecting bones, and to prevent bed-sores in wasting diseases.

The idea is gaining ground, and the London Lancet favors it, that it is just as sensible to knock a man down who needs rest, as to give him narcotics because he

For pimples wash the face in a solution of carbolic acid, allowing a teaspoonful to a pint of water. This is an excellent and purifying lotion, and may be used on the most delicate skin. Re careful about letting the wash get in the

A piece of borax the size of a pea dissolved in the mouth some ten minutes before speaking or singing strengthens the voice. Five grains of potassium iodide taken in a warn solution before going to bed the previous night helps the voice when extra effort is required. Health and Home.

The beneficial effect of the atmosphere of pine forests upon pulmonary disorders has long been known, and at some of the watering-places in Germany, it is said, the very simple prescription of the physician is that the patient shall spend several hours a day walking or riding through the pine wood. This treat-ment is sometimes supplemented by the taking of pine baths.

Scorpions and Centipedes.

Frequently though the scorpion is met with, yet a sting from one is rare. An instance coming within my observation was that of my chowkeenar, who had been stung during the night while asleep on his mat in the corner of the veranda where the reptile had evidently dropped down from above. I was awoke by a loud "bapre-bap" and the very familiar "sapkadyla" ("Father, oh, father, a snake has bitten mel") and on going to the spot with a light, we discovered the assailant to be, not a snake, but a scorpion, which was standing motionless in the corner, still angrily curving its tail-a discovery which afforded unspeakable relief to the ohowkeedar, who had thought his last hours were come, and who now with folded hands and upturned oyes devoutly acknowledged his excape in the exclamation: 'Dehai Ram Ji, jan buchgais ("Mercy, oh, Ramf my life is spared!"). He had pressed upon the reptile, no doubt, while turning round, and had been stung on the arm, which rapidly swelled to a great size, accompanied by pain so excessive as to cause a feeling of faintness. With his mind, however, relieved from the "worst," he soon set about collecting herbs from the compound and garden, under the application of hot mashes of which the pain gradually subsided, and along with the swelling, disappeared in a couple of days. Being curious to watch the habits of

the scorpion, I placed one under a glass case along with a grasshopper two inches long, whose sharp-spiked legs constituted its strong natural defence. For awhile the scorpion took no notice of the wild leaps of his companion, though every now and again it struck against him in rebounding from the glass cover, but at length, irritated by the continuance of these, it assumed the offensive. After several unsuccessful clutches, he managed to seize with his toes a leg of the grasshopper, which he held in his jaws, while endeavoring to transfix him with his sting, till he succeeded in driving it through and through him. The leaps of the grasshopper now speedily grew feebler, and soon he lay motionless and dead. For twenty-four hours the scorpion took no further notice of his companion, and then, pressed by hunger, he bethought himself of him, and speedily devoured him. Like the scorpion the centipede also seems partial to grasshoppers, when it can get them. An enormously magnified copy as it is of the little home centipede, the sight of one five or six inches long, with its multitude of prehensile feet all moving at once, and its long feelers steering its way, causes an involuntary creeping of the flesh. Once while reclining on a sofa perusing a daily paper after mid-day breakfast, preparatory to "turning in" for the customary siesta, I was surprised by a thump-thumping against a newspaper which was lying in a corner of the room, and the continuance of the sound induced me to jump up to ascertain the cause, suspecting, of course, a snake and frog. The raising of the paper disclosed a centipede of about five inches hopper, which he was quietly hollowing cracking them on a stone. He could take out without the least regard to the frantic kicks of his victim, which had occasioned the noise against the paper. Nor did he seem disposed to relinquish so choice a morsel, but allowed himself to be turned over and over without even relaxing his hold; and as the grasshopper could not physically recoup his loss, I let his devourer continue, till in a quarter of an hour only the shell remained, and only then did the diminishing kicks of the grasshopper cease altogether. On another occasion, in the hot month of May, during my morning ablutions, while raising the sponge to my face, I was met by the near view of an ugly pair of horns, followed by a head, emerging from one of the pores. Not an instant too soon, I dropped it down again on the basin stand, upon which the full length of a hideous centipede gradually unwound itself. Such are instances of the way these reptiles are come upon now and again in India, generally when and where least expected, and showing the wariness people require to practice in every movement, even in lifting a book or paper, or putting the hand anywhere where the eye does not also reach. The bite of the centipede is rarely heard of, but it is more or less poisonous, and, like the sting of the scorpion, is considered sc-rious to children.—All the Year Round.

MEN AND WOMEN OF RETRACEDI. MARY STREEGTE.

A French Woman That Carried Weights That Were Equal to 2,016 Pounds—Feats of Strong Men.

The feats of Lulu Hurst fall into insignificance beside those of Mme. Gobert, who laid claim to no other power than uncommon physical strength. This woman, who is described as possessing a remarkably beautiful face and form, appeared first before the public at St. Bartholomew fair in London, in 1818. Her achievements astonished all who beheld them. She carried weights equal to 2,016 pounds, lifted a heavy table, on which several persons were seated, with her teeth, supported an anvil weighing 400 pounds on her chest while a blacksmith forged a horseshoe upon it, and afterward tied her long hair about the anvil and awung it about. The Georgia girl's chair feat was a favorite one with lime. Gobert, and it is noteworthy that in the case of each woman this was the first branch of their performances at-tacked by skepticism. Whether, as was charged, her public performances were made up largely of trickery, there ap-pears to be no doubt that she was extraordinarily strong. On one occasion while traveling, her coach sunk into the mire and resisted all efforts of the horses. Descending, the female Samson easily extricated the vehicle and proceeded on her journey amid the applause of a large crowd of common people, with whom her popularity continued for years.

In 1871, M. Gregorie, claiming to be seventy-one years old, astonished the physicians and the public of a town near London by carrying 700 pounds with ease, lifting an ox, and performing other wonderful feats. His shoulders were prodigious, and his blceps almost incredible. Gregorie's strength, rather than a source of pride to him, was the cause of anxiety. Although the mildest of men, he lived in dread that he should be provoked to use his strength against a fellow-being. He was afraid to nurse his own child lest he should give it a fatal squeeze.

Nearly all individuals of uncommon strength make up in bulk what they are deficient in height. Stanley, the Afri-can explorer, describes a strong man who was six feet five inches, and rather dis-proportionately slender. He could toss an ordinary man ten feet in the air, and catch him in his decent. He would take one of the large white Muscat donkeya by the ears, and, with a sudden move ment of his right foot, lay the surprised ass on his back. He could carry a threeyear-old bullock half way around his moster's plantation. Once he actually boye twelve men on his back, shoulders and chest a distance of 800 feet. Middle-aged people who remember the dawn of interest in muscular exercises recall Dr. Winship, the originator of the idea which was subsequently embodied in lifting machines. The astonishment that the doctor's performances created was equal to that of the Berliners a few years ago at Jorgnery's feats. The most wonderful of these was known as the trapeze feat. The Frenchman hung suspended by his legs from a swinging bar, and by sheer muscular strength lifted a heavy horse and its rider off the stage, suspending them several minutes, and then letting them down gradually and evenly as he raised Merwin Thompson's achievethem. ment at Rochester, N. Y., last year was, however, in the opinion of competent juages, more surprising than this. Thompson laid face downward on a

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Black walnut sawdust, formerly throws away, is now mixed with linseed gum and molded into heads and flower pieces for the ornamentation of furniture. When dried and varnished it is as handsome and much stronger and more durable than carved work.

According to the Lumberman's Gazette, aper bottles are now largely manufactured in Germany and Austria. They are made of rags, wood pulp and straw, and are coated on both sides with defrib rinated blood, lime and alumina. They are manufactured in two parts and are submitted to high pressure. When com-pleted they will hold spirits, acid, etc., and are not easily broken. Their cost is very low.

According to Mr. Graham, recounting his experiences of mountaineering in the Himalayas to the Royal Geographical society, especially with reference to his ascent of a peak 23,700 feet above the sea, neither in that nor in any other ascent did he feel any inconvenience in breathing; or experience any nausea, or bleeding at the nose, or temporary loss of sight and hearing, but the motion of the heart was perceptibly affected, as its beating became audible and its rate was decidedly increased.

The use of catgut sutures and chickenbone drainage tubes is among the latest devices for mercifully healing wounds. Outgut, being an animal substance, is absorbed, and does not have to be withdrawn as does silk or silver wire, which has heretofore been used for sewing up or stitching cuts together. Wounds drawn together with catgut, therefore, do not have to be inflamed by taking out the stitches, and are in consequence more likely to heal by what is known as the "first intention." The large bones of a chicken are decalcified and made into transparent tubes. These are inserted where wounds must be drained, and, unlike the rubber tubing formerly used, need not be removed, thus aggravating the wound. Being animal substances they become dissolved.

Leprosy was known in the United States before the appearance of a Chinaman. It existed in Louisiana a century ago, and in 1875 a hospital of lepera was crected near New Orleans.

New Catalogue of Organs.

The MASON & HANLIN ORGAN AND PIANO COMPANY have just issued their new catalogue for the season of 1884.5. all forms a hand some 4to pamphlet of forty-six pages, and contains illustrations accurately showing the contains illustrations accurately showing the appearance of all the styles of organs regu-larly made by them, with detailed descrip-tions of the capacity of each; together with quite full mention of the general modes of construction employed and the great favor with which the organs have been received all over the world; with accounts of their triumphs at all the great comparisons of such instruments at World's Industrial Ex-hibitions for many years; with pictures of medals, decorations and diplomas of honor obtained.

In looking over such a catalogue one is forcibly reminded of the magnitude which the business of reed instruments has attained. Twenty-five years since only a few were made, under the name "melodeons," which had not and did not deserve much favor with musicians, enjoying very limited sale, at prices varying from \$40 to \$125. Now 80,-000 organs are made yearly in the United States, which are sold in all civilized coun-tries at prices from \$22 to \$1,000 or more.

This at prices from see to said to any purchaser of a Mason & Hamilin organ; he will unques-tionably get the very best instrument of its class which can be made. Thirty years' ex-perience is a guarantee of what this company can and will do. They cannot afford to send out poor organs.

out poor organs. The present catalogue shows an increased and very complete assortment, both as to cases and capacities. It will be sent free, to any one desiring to see it, on application to the Mason & Hamiin Organ and Piano Com-pano, Boston, New York, or Chicago.—Boston

A Outrk Recovery. It gives us great pleasure to state that the merchant, who was reported being at the point of death from an attack of pneumonia, has entirely recovered by the use of Dr. Wm. Hall's Balsam for the Lungs. Naturally he

using this remedy, for the lungs and threat; and in giving publicity to this statement we are actuated by motives of public benefaction, trusting that others may be benefited in a similar manner. "Raugh on Dentlat" Tooth Powder. Smooth, refreshing, harmless, elegant, cleans-ing, preservative and fragrant. 15c. Druggista.

Butter Buyers

Butter Buyers everywhere are refusing to take while, lardy looking butter except at "grease" prices. Con-sumers want nothing but gilt-edged butter, and buyers therefore recommend their pa-trons to keep a uniform color throughout the year by using the Improved Butter Color made by Wells, Richardson & Co., Burling-ton, Vt. It is the only color that can be relied on to never injure the butter, and to always give the perfect color. Sold by druggists and merchants. merchants,

Mothers. If you are failing; broken, worn out and ner-yous, use "Wells' Health Renewer." \$1. Drgta

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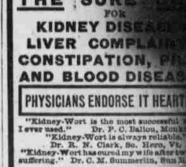
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IN THOUSANDS OF CASE

It costs \$8,100 to pay the salaries of of the scenes at the burning well. It postage stamps to the various postoffices was during one of these paroxysms that | in the United States.

firmly fixed ladder and resisted the efforts of a team of powerful horses to pull him from that position. A newspaper writer, in reviewing this wonderful performance, remarks that the little mention with which it escaped could happen only in a nation where strong men were common.

The same feat in 1675 gave William Joy the name of the English Samson. The medical faculty of Vienna thought the strength of Joseph Pospischilli worthy of discussion at several special meetings. This man held a table suspended by his tooth while three gypsics danced upon it. He and one of his brothers bore upon their shoulders a sort of wooden bridge while a horse drawing a cart full of stones was driven over it. Pospischilli's strength was thought to reside in his back, and his bones were said to be twice as large as the usual size.

Fishing parties and explorers in the wilds of northern Wisconsin were a few years ago familiar with Peter Panquette, the Samson of the region. He was a famous woodsman, possessed of mighty endurance, and muscles that were like iron. Sepator Clark says: "I have had him bare his arm to me and crack hicklong, holding in his jaws a large grass- ory nuts upon the muscles. It was like a handful of dried hard hickory nuts and crush them to pieces by merely tightening his fist." On one occasion, while serving as a guide for a party of explorers, a yoke of oxen drawing the boat down the Fox gave out through fatigue. Panquette took their place, and hauled the boat along, heeding the strain less than the beasts. Sheppard, the wonder of the Coventry volunteers, whose muscular development answers to the description given of Panquette, like the latter wore his hair long. With the half-breed it was a custom derived from his copper colored ancestors, but with the ruddy Englishman it was in obedience to his belief that all his strength lay in his flowing yellow locks. Sheppard could lift a heavy man in each hand, and hold them at arms' length. He could toss enormous tables, barrels and bags of flour about as though they were filled with feathers. He could take a pewter pint pot and tear it into pieces with his teeth, and he could munch large oyster shells as a person would munch a biscuit Sheppard was the wonder of the country around, but his prosperous popular ity developed enemies, and one of these, it is related, induced the strong man to drink deeply, and while sunk in stupor cut off his luxuriant hair. Sheppard awoke, felt his bare poll, and in tones of horror announced his strength was gone. Whether because such was the case, or because he wished to excite superstitious credulity, the strong man from that moment was weak, timid and hesita inguntil his hair grew long again. -Inter-Decan.

Traveler. A SUBSTITUTE for sand in house plastering is found in sawdust.

"Yes; I shall break the engagement," she said, folding her arms and looking defiant; "it is really too much trouble to converse with "It is really too much trouble to converse with him; he's as deaf as a post, and talks like he had a mouthful of mush. Besides, the way he hawks and spits is disgusting." "Don't break the engagement for that; tell him to take Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. It will cure him completely." "Well, I'll tell him. I do hate to break it off, for in all other re-spects he's quite too charming." Of course, it cured his catarrh. it cured his catarrh.

THERE are 75,000 clergymen in the United

No lady need be without Mrs. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound because she is far dis-tant from drug stores. The proprietors send it postage paid by mail from Lynn, Mass., in the form of lozenges or of pills; price, §1 per box, or six for \$5. Send for the "Guide to Health," which gives full particulars.

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If you are pale, emaciated, have a hacking cough, with night-sweats, spitting of blood and shortness of breath, you have no time to lose. Do not kesitate too long—'till you are past cure; for, taken in its early stages, con-sumption can be cured by the use of Dr. sumption can be cured by the use of Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery," 18 thousands can testify. By druggists.

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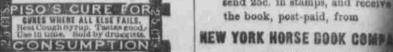
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