DEAD OR ALIVE?

EERIE STORIES ABOUT PREMA-TURE BURIALS

How the Cardinal Thrilled the French Senate—The Story of Ginevra—A Shivery Tale of a Spectre Guest.

In 1866 a most dramatic scene occurred in the French Senate-a scene in real life that would have been voted impossible on the stage.

A petition had been presented pointing out the dangers of hasty interments and suggesting measures for their prevention. M. de la Gueronniere proposed to shelve it. But the venerable Cardinal Donnet, Archbishop of Bordeaux, arose in support of the petition.

His argument was long and interesting. He had himself, he said, while yet a cure, saved several persons from being buried alive. He had seen a man taken from his coffin and restored to health. He had seen the body of a young lady laid out for dead, the attendants covering her face as he entered, yet allowing him to observe so much as convinced him she was not dead, but sleeping. With a loud voice he cried out that he was come to save her.

"You do not see me, perhaps," he said, "but you hear what I am saying." And she did hear. His voice reached her numbed sensations. She made a mighty effort and woke into life.

"That young girl," said the Archbishop in the midst of a profound silence, "is to-day a wife, the mother of children and the chief happiness of two of the most distinguished families in Paris."

But the Archbishop had another and still more impressive story to tell. In 1826 a young priest fainted in the pulpit and was given up for dead. He was measured for the coffin, the funeral bell was tolled, the De Profundis was recited. Meanwhile the seeming corpse could hear all that was going on. "You will easily feel how impressive was the agony of the living in that situation. At last, amid the murmurs around him, he distinguished the voice of one known to him from childhood. That voice produced a marvelous effect and stimulated him to superhuman effort. Of what followed I need say no more than that the seeming dead man stood next day in the pulpit from which he had been taken for dead. That young priest, gentlemen," and here the old man's voice thrilled every listener; "that young priest is the man who stands before you to-day-more than forty years later-entreating those in authority not merely to vigilantly enforce execution of the legal requirements in regard to burials, but to enact fresh ones that may prevent

the occurrence of irreparable misfortunes.' In spite of official resistance the Senate voted that the petition should be referred to the Minister of the Interior. Some of its modifications of existing laws were eventually adopted. But the French, like the English, have always resisteed the innovation of mortuary chambers, such as the German and other nations have adopted, in which the dead are retained for a time before interment. Here mechanical appliances are so arranged that the slightest motion on the part of the buried would sound an alarm and summon an attendant. Since 1828, however, when the system was adopted, not a single case of apparent death has been proved to occur. Of course this negative evidence cannot be cited as conclusive either for or against the system.

History is full of instances of burial during suspended animation, many of which from their grewsome and startling character have passed into literature. Duns Scotus, known as the Subtle, is said to have been buried while in a fit, in the absence of his servant and of all who know that such fits were periodical with him. When the servant returned he insisted on opening the vault. The corpse was found dead then beyond hope, but bearing all the evidence of a terrible struggle, one hand being bitten off and half eaten. It was no doubt the finding of other corpses in a similar condition after burial that led to the hideous mediæval superstition of vampires, which fed upon human bodies. A celebrated romance of real life, which has also found curious counterparts more or less authenticated in all lands and periods, is the Florentine story of Ginevra. Married against her inclination in the year 1400 to Francesco degli Agolanti, the one of her two lovers who loved her least, Ginevra was buried alive during a trance which looked like death. At midnight as he was, refused to believe that this pale revenante crying at his door was aught hesty benediction. So did her father; so dragged herself to his doorstep.

evra exclaimed: "I am no spirit, Antonio! I am that Ginevra that you once loved, who was buried yesterday-buried alive!" and fell swooning into the welcoming arms of her delighted lover.

Tearing her shroud from her face Gin-

He took her in, warmed, fed and comforted her, and when she had been nursed back to health he privately married her. The next Sunday they appeared together as man and wife at the Cathedral. There

was universal consternation among Ginevra's friends. An explanation ensued, which satisfied all but the lady's first husband, who insisted that the original marriage had not been dissolved. The case was referred to the Bishop, who decided in favor of Rondinelli, on the unscientific but none the less poetically satisfying ground that the lady had really died once and been released from all former ties. The first husband was even obliged to pay over to Rondinelli the dowry he had received with his bride.

It would be easy to go on citing from poetry, romance and history example after example of premature burial, but space and time have their limitations, and it may be as well to conclude with this eerie tale which comes to us from Spain:

An undertaker in Madrid, who lived over his shop, one night gave a grand ball. At the height of the festivities a gentleman in full evening dress joined the company. He danced with the hostess and her daughter, he danced with the guests. He seemed to enjoy himself thoroughly. The undertaker thought he recognized the face, but didn't like to be rude and ask the stranger's name. By and by all the guests departed and only the unknown was left.

"Shall I send for a cab for you?" said the host at last.

"No, thank you; I'm staying in the house.

"Staying in the house! Who are you, sir?"

"Why, don't you know me? I'm the corpse that was brought in this after-

The undertaker in horror rushed to the mortuary chamber, where in Spain it is usual for the dead to be removed. The coffin was empty. His wife and daughter had been dancing with a corpse!

But it turned out that the gentleman ltad only been in a trance and had suddenly recovered. Hearing the revelry above, and being possessed of a keen though ghastly sense of humor, he had got out of his coffin and joined the festive party. He was presentable, for in Spain the dead are generally buried in full evening dress. - New York Herald.

A System for Reducing Corpulency.

The Banting process for the reduction of corpulency is abstinence from bread, butter, milk, sugar, parsnips, beet roots, turnips, carrots, champagne, port, beer and potatoes, on account of their containing starch or saccharine matter fending to create fat. The diet prescribed is: For breakfast, for or five ounces of beef, mutton, kidneys, boiled fish, bacon or cold meat of any kind except pork, owing to its fattening character; or veal, on account of its indigestible quality; a large cup of tea (without milk or sugar), a little biscuit or one ounce of dry toast. For dinner, five or six ounces of any fish except salmon, herrings and eels (owing to their oily nature), and meat, except veal or pork; any vegetables except those above precluded; one ounce of dry toast. fruit out of a pudding, any kind of poul try or game. For tea, two or three wunces of fruit, a rusk or two, a cup of tea, without milk or sugar. For supper, two or three ounces of meat or fish, similar to dinner. Banting took his meals as follows: Breakfast, between eight and nine: dinner, between one and two; tea, between five and six; supper at nine. Several eminent physicians have declared

A Circus Horse's Broken Heart.

The emotional life of the horse is r narkable. There are instances on record where the death of the horse has been traced directly to grief. One instance is called to mind which occurred more than twenty years ago. A circus had been performing in the little town of Unionville, Penn., when one of trained horses sprained one of his legs so that he could no travel. He was taken to the hotel and put in a box stall. The leg was bandaged and he was made as comfortable as possible. He ate his food and was apparently contented until about midnight, when the circus began moving out of town. Then he became restless and tramped and whined. As the caravan moved past the hotel he seemed to realize that he was being deserted, and his anxiety and distress became pitiful. He would stand with his ears pricked in an attitude of intense listening, and then as his ears caught the sounds of the retiring wagons he would rush as best he could with his injured leg, from one side of the stall to the other, pushing at the door with his nose and making every effort to escape. The stableman, who was a stranger to him, tried to soothe him, but to no purpose. He would not be comforted. Long after all sounds of the circus had ceased his agitation continued. The sweat poured from him in streams and he quivered in every part of his body. Finally the stableman went to the house, woke up the proprictor and told him hetbelieved the horse would die if some of the circus horse were not brought back to keep him company. At about daylight the proprietor mounted a horse and rode after the cir cus. He overtook it ten or twelve miles away, and the groom who had charge of the injured horse returned with him. When they reached the stable the horse was dead. The stableman said that he remained for nearly an hour perfectly still, and with every sense apparently strained to the utmost tension, and then, without making a sign, fell and died with scarcely a struggle .- Western Sportsman.

Why He Wore a Toupee.

A story that is causing amusement in the circles of the Astors and Vanderbilts is of a young gentleman who is favored at this moment with a large amount of money and a decidedly small amount of hair.

"Yes," he said, "that is a good growth of hair, but it is stuck on with gum." Struck aback, the writer asked him for an explanation.

"This is a toupee," he said, "and I n wearing it because the hair has been buy .aed all off the top of my head." He then drew a receipted doctor's bill from his pocket. It was close to \$1000

in amount. "That," he said, "is all for a vain attempt to secure some new hair. I have been through what about half the men in New York go through sooner or later. Every one seems to be growing bald nowadays. Something in the atmosphere must cause it. Don't you notice how hair restoring shops are springing up all over town? Well, I wouldn't take any stock in nostrums, but went to a regular hair doctor. It cost me just that thousand dollars, and it didn't do me one bit of good. Finally I took the advice of a young belle with perfect golden hair to go to an old Indian herb doctor, who, she assured me, preserved her hair when it was fast falling out. I could want no better proof than her head provided, so off to the Indian went I. He mixed me up a liquid and directed me to apply it when I retired at night. I did so. Luckily, I rubbed it only over the top of my head where the hair was thin. The next morning I found what little hair I had gloried in sprinkled over my pillow. Jumping up, I gazed at myself in the mirror. I was as bald as a white crockery door

Distanced in the Race. Why should Dr. Pierce's medicines not dis-tance all competitors in amount of sales, as they are doing, since they are the only medi-cines sold by druggists possessed of such won-derful curstive properties as to warrant their manufacturers in guaranteeing them to cure the diseases for which they are recommended. You get a cure or money paid for them ro-turned. The Doctor's "Golden Medical Dis-covery" cures all diseases caused by derange-ment of the liver, as billousness; indigestion or dyspepsia; also all blood, skin and scalp dis-eases, tetter, salt-theum, scorofulous sores and swellings and khdred ailments.

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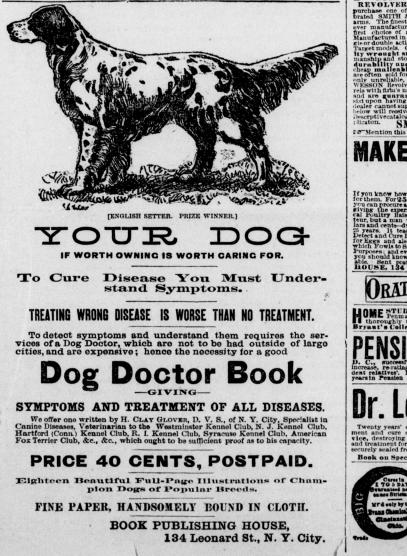


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He answered her timid knock himself. and though startled at the ghostly vision, calmly inquired what the spirit wanted cian's curative touch. - Philadelphia with him. Record.

Banting's system to be productive of kidney disease .- New York Dispatch.

Lengthening Life of Humanity.

It is estimated that the life of humanity has gained twenty-five per cent. all the world over in the last fifty years. The lowest average that has been calculated is twenty-three years, which represents the life expectancy of the Soudanese; but even this is high when it is remembered that in Geneva in the thirteenth century fourteen years were all that were allotted

to man The United States census of 1850 shows that 7.47 per cent. of the persons who died in the previous decade were more than seventy years of age; in 1850 the percentage was 7.54, and in 1880, it was 10.35. The deaths of she awoke, and, horror-struck, made her adults have diminished in a continuous way out of the vault to her husband's ratio, so that the proportion of infant house. But he, sorrowful for her death victims to the whole number of deaths is constantly on the increase. In 1850, 16.90 per cent. of the whole number of else than a ghost, and repulsed her with a deaths were of children less than one year old; in 1860 the percentage was did her uncle. Then, nearly dying in good 20.74; in 1880 it was 23.24. These earnest, she remembered her other and figures in themseives show the increasing truer lover, Antonio di Rondinelli, and triumph of medicine over death, since they evidence that it is the new-born, semi-lifeless infant and not the adult invalid that fails to respond to the physi-

knob. Now I wear a toupee. My hair is growing in a little less thick than it was before. When it gets back to a point so my friends won't howl at me when I heave in sight I will dispense with the toupee."-New York Sun.

First Method of Producing Electricity. If a piece of amber or resin and a piece of glass be rubbed together and then separated, they are no longer indifferent to each other as before, but each attracts the other. In this condition the bodie are both said to be electrified or charged with electricity. Evidence of this condition is easily secured by suspending one of the charged bodies so that it can move freely and then presenting the other. An electric charge may be communicated to bodies which have not been rubbed on merely bringing them in contact with one which is already electrified. For example, a light ball of pith suspended by a silken thread will be charged by such contact, and it can then serve as an electroscope; that is; it can be employed as a means of detecting the electric condition of any body to which it may be presented. A light straw, balanced so as to turn freely on a fine point, may serve the same purpose.-Scribner.

There are twenty-seven more dogs than sheep in Miami County, Ohio.

