

CRIMINALS AT PLAY.

THE CRUEL WAYS IN WHICH THEY "AMUSE" THEMSELVES.

The Test In All Their Games Is the Ability to Bear Pain—In Italian Prisons Surgeons Are Always In Demand to Patch Up the "Players."

Mario Carara, a disciple of Cesare Lombroso, the Italian expert in criminal anthropology, has made a special study of the sports that criminals engage in. The innocent games of childhood, in the case of criminals, are tinged with cruelty and sometimes accompanied by homicide.

Criminals skip the rope, but part of the game is to trip up the jumper and let him fall heavily upon the stone pavement.

Criminals play leapfrog, but the object of the game is that he who makes the "back" shall rise suddenly and violently just as the frog mounts and throw him to the ground.

The criminals play blind man's buff, but the man with the bandaged eyes carries a handkerchief bearing in one corner a jagged stone, a piece of hard, sharpened wood or a bit of iron. With this weapon he strikes those whom he pursues.

Another remarkable form of this game is for the blinded one to be struck by one or another of his companions if he fails to name the one that touches him. The penalty is not the innocent one of the children's game, but a blow so severe that a physician has often to be called in after a game is over, and occasionally the sufferer is disabled for some time.

It has been found in those Italian reformatories where prisoners are not kept in solitary confinement that prisoners' games are often accompanied with bloodshed, and that it is almost impossible to prevent cruelties. This is especially true where prisoners work together, for they secrete tools and use them as weapons in brutal sports.

In one of these games the player has in each hand a stick, having fixed in the end a keen metallic point. He interweaves his arms, revolving the sticks with rapidity, and the game is for another prisoner to thrust his head between the arms and endeavor to follow the revolutions of the sticks without being wounded. It usually happens that he receives 15 or 16 wounds and comes out with a bleeding head, while now and then mortal injuries are received.

The victim in another game has his eyes bandaged and places his palm upon a table, with fingers spread fanlike. Another criminal repeatedly strikes between the fingers with a pointed instrument. If he wounds a finger, then the two change places, and woe to the man who refuses the exchange. The game is dangerous, although the criminals assert that the wounds to the fingers are not deep or severe, because, they say, the metallic points are too short and do not penetrate far, a grim form of philosophy.

The sport of criminals is accompanied by characteristic craft. This is especially shown in the methods in which the newcomer is initiated into prison life. The novice is conducted into an improvised court chamber, where the judges are his fellow prisoners. He is placed upon a stand and gravely tried upon a pretended charge, and he has barely been condemned when the stand is suddenly drawn away, so that he is thrown violently upon the earth.

Many games necessarily imply resistance to pain as an absolute condition of success. For example, there is the game of "needles." One of the players places his closed fists upon the table, holding steadily two needles, one in each hand, the points being slightly exposed. It is the game then for a companion to strike with his own fists those of the other and become a question of endurance between the one who is pricked with the needles and the one whose fists are beaten by the other's knuckles.

There are contests in which the fingers and hands are deeply wounded, and the scars are an honorable distinction.

The characteristic feature of all these games, which are the recreation exclusively of criminals in prison, is the love of combat. If, as is held by experts, sports are the means of working off the superfluous activity of life, it is evident that superfluous activity, in the case of prisoners, is especially powerful. It has been noted in the case of prisoners that there is a prevalence of great agility and lighthness, which Professor Lombroso considers a negative evidence of mental weakness, since it testifies to a greater development of the notorial centers at the expense of the other cerebral centers. But usually this physical energy is not properly used in the ordinary life of the criminal and finds outlet and enjoyment in sports.

Another characteristic of the games of criminals is the admiration shown for physical force, manifested in the docility with which the vanquished in such sports submit to the brutality of the victors, a thing observed among savages.

Finally the insensibility to pain exhibited in sports of criminals proves that such men are less acute in their physical senses as well as less sensitive to the pains of others, since what seems to others uselessly cruel is only the usual thing with criminals. As the drunkard, his taste hardened by alcohol, has need of a stimulant constantly stronger, so in the case of the criminal, the nervous system demands stimulants so strong that to the ordinary steady going individual they would be actually painful.—*Pearson's Weekly.*

Did Not Beam on Him.

"If you chose, you could be the light of my life," said he when they met at the ball.

"Yes?" she said for want of anything better to say.

"Yes. But whenever I call, you are out."—*Indianapolis Journal.*

ANDRE'S MONUMENT.

Vandals Have Chipped His Memorial In Westminster Abbey.

Near the center of the south wall of the nave is a monument to Major Andre of Revolutionary note. The very long inscription upon it begins, "Sacred to the memory of Major John Andre, who, raised by his merit, at an early period of life, to the rank of adjutant general of the British forces in America, and employed in an important but hazardous enterprise, fell a sacrifice to his zeal for his king and country, on the 2d of October, 1780, aged 29, universally beloved and esteemed by the army in which he served and lamented even by his foes."

About the base of the monument, which is a panel set against the wall, are several small figures. These project from the panel, and represent the presentation of Major Andre's letter to General Washington on the night before his execution. The ease with which the heads of these figures could be broken off has been too great a temptation to relic hunters, and most of the heads have been knocked off and stolen. That such vandalism is not wholly modern is shown from the fact that Charles Lamb writes of the defacing of this very monument in this way in his "Essays of Elia." Southey, the poet, when a boy, was a pupil at the Westminster school. Later in life he was exceedingly sensitive in regard to his political principles, and for a time a serious quarrel existed between himself and Lamb, because the latter, speaking in regard to this injury to Andre's monument, described it as the "wanton mischief of some schoolboy, fired perhaps with raw notions of transatlantic freedom."

Then, addressing Southey, he added, "The mischief was done about the time that you were a scholar there. Do you know anything about the unfortunate relic?" There is now fastened upon the wall of the nave, above the monument, a wreath of oak leaves which Dean Stanley, when he visited America, gathered near the spot on the bank of the Hudson river where Andre was executed. Although Andre died in 1780, it was not until 1821 that, at the request of the Duke of York, his bones were exhumed and taken to England to be buried in the abbey. The box in which they were placed for the voyage is still preserved in the oratory over St. Isip's chapel, where the wax figures are kept.—*Max Bennett Thrasher in St. Nicholas.*

Animals' Illusions.

Birds are perhaps more commonly the victims of illusions than other animals, their stupidity about their eggs being quite remarkable. Last year, for instance, a hen got into the pavilion of a ladies' golf club and began to sit on a golf ball in a corner, for which it made a nest with a couple of pocket handkerchiefs. But many quadrupeds are not only deceived for the moment by reflections, shadows and such unrealities, but often seem victims to illusions largely developed by the imagination.

The horse, for instance, is one of the bravest of animals when face to face with dangers which it can understand, such as the charge of an elephant or a wild boar at bay. Yet the courageous and devoted horse, so steadfast against the dangers he knows, is a prey to a hundred terrors of the imagination due to illusions, mainly those of sight, for shying, the minor effect of these illusions, and "bolting," in which panic gains complete possession of his soul, are caused, as a rule, by mistakes as to what the horse sees, and not by misinterpretation of what he hears. It is noticed, for instance, that many horses which shy usually start away from objects on one side more frequently than from objects on the other. This is probably due to defects in the vision of one or other eye.

In nearly all cases of shying the horse takes fright at some unfamiliar object, though this is commonly quite harmless, such as a wheelbarrow upside down, a freshly felled log or a piece of paper rolling before the wind. This instantly becomes an illusion, is interpreted as something else, and it is a curious question in equine neuropathy to know what it is that the horse figures these harmless objects to be. When Russian ponies first began to be shipped to Harwich, they usually objected to pass near a donkey. This reluctance was explained on the hypothesis that the ponies seldom saw donkeys in Russia and mistook them for bears.—*London Spectator.*

The Corpulent Bourbons.

Where does the Duc d'Orleans get his fat? From the Spanish and Neapolitan Bourbons, of whom he is unquestionably a descendant, even though Louis Philippe were a Chiappini. I cannot think of any French Bourbons, except Louis XVI, his sister Clotilde and Philippe Egalite's father and the Comte de Chambord and his sister, who were very fat. The two latter were, however, descended from the Neapolitan and Spanish Bourbons. Obesity has been an oft recurring malady of the Spanish royal family ever since Elizabeth Farnese married Philip V. She was the heiress of the fattest Italian that probably ever lived. He was a prince for a Barzum show whose legs had to be propped up by buckram and whalebone cases to prevent them overlapping his feet. Fatty degeneration impaired the usefulness of Charles III of Spain and destroyed the activity of the late Queen Christina, grandmother of the Comtesse de Paris. Queen Isabella strongly inherits the family failing. The Comtesse de Paris makes a brave fight against the hereditary diathesis by Bantingizing at Mar-lebad and on the Auberge moors, where she tires out all her gamekeepers.—*London Truth.*

Cause and Effect.

"Did I hear that your mule was struck by lightning, Eph?"
"Yess, sah; dar was a powahful bolt hit de mule right ahind his eahs."
"Did it kill him?"
"No, sah; but it done broke up de sto'm."—*Detroit Free Press.*

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