Shock of Sudden Glad Tidings at Times Turns the Brain.

JOY THAT BRINGS WOE

IT HAS DRIVEN PEOPLE MAD.

Some of the Saddest Cases of Lunacy Are Those Where the Mind Is Unable to Stand the Strain of News of Unexpected Good Fortune.

It is no exaggeration to assert, said an asylum doctor of long and varied experience, that there are scores of men and women in insane asylums who have literally been sent there through excess of joy. Many of these cases which are, in my opinion, the saddest of all have come under my own observation.

I remember in the very first asylum with which I was connected one of the patients was a strikingly handsome and very well educated man, who was as same as you or I except on one point. He was really a man of considerable wealth, but his delusion was that he was a pauper, and he would tell the most pitiful tales of his destitution, begging, with tears in his eyes, for a few coppers with which to buy broad.

According to the story told me, he was the only son of a wealthy merchant. In his youth he had fallen among evil companions and had led such a dissolute life that his father not only threatened to disinherit him. but forbade him ever to enter his house again. After that he seems to have such into the lowest depths of ed, I doubt whether he will ever repoverty until he was glad to earn a few coppers by selling papers or matches in the streets.

It was at this last and lowest stage that news came to him that his father had died intestate and that he was heir to all his vast fortune. The sudden news completely turned the man's brain and brought on such a condition of excitement that he had to be sent to an asylum, and when he calmed down again he had lost all recollection of his good fortune, and nothing could shake his delusion that he was on the verge of starvation.

Another patient in the same asylum was a young and in his lucid moments a most intelligent fellow, whose "brain was turned," as the saying is, on learning that he had passed an examination. He had sat for the matriculation examination at the University of Lon-

heart and had asked a friend in Lon don to wire the result as soon as the names were screened at Burlington House

don, on passing which he had set us

About three weeks later came a fatal telegram, "Failed-sorry," which sent the young man into the lowest depths of despair, for he was too old

to sit again. Not many hours later. however, came another telegram, "Passed honors-very sorry crush so great did not see name this morning." The revulsion of feeling was so great that the student's reason gave way, and he became so violent in his excitement that he had to be confined. Fortunately he was not with us long and is now, I am glad to know, doing

very well as a solicitor. Disappointed love sends many people to asylums, but it is very seldom that success in wooing drives a man mad. It had this strange effect, however, on one of my late patients. The girl he loved had gone out to India to keep house for her brother before he had screwed up his courage to the point of proposing to her, but an offer followed by mail very quickly after her.

Weeks and months passed and no answer came to the impatient lover until, after waiting two years in despair, he became engaged to a girl who had nothing but her money bags to recommend her and for whom he had not a particle of love. Scarcely, however, was his fate sealed than he received the long despaired of letter from India, accepting his offer and ex-

plaining that the girl's brother had received and mislaid the letter, which had only just been found and had come into her hands. Within an hour of the receipt of this

letter the man was a raving maniae. and, although his condition is improvcover his reason. In another remarkable case it was

the joy at seeing her husband again that robbed a lady patient of her reason. Her husband was the captain of a merchant ship which was reported to have gone down with all hands The widow had deeply mourned her husband for nearly a year when one day on returning from a walk she found him sitting in the drawing room as hale and robust as ever.

With a shrick she fell unconscious on the floor, and when she recovered her reason was gone. It seems that her husband, after floating for some time, had been picked up by a passing "tramp" and had been landed on the west coast of Africa, from which he had returned home by the first available vessel.-London Spectator.

HIS THORE DIED.

A Deal the Horsenno Put Through on the Depu Quint,

A man known countribunt as lover and possessor of fine homes was lately driving one of his favorite. steeds along a suburban read when he came upon another horse tover, at most as well known, who was driving in the opposite direction " eleminet pleased to meet each other, both dress up alongside. "I heard only yesterday that you'd

gone away and brought back a new thoroughbred." greeted the second horseman.

"Yep," gleefully returned the first horseman; "I'm just after leaving her back home while I give this horse a little spin for his liver."

"Think she'll suit?" asked the and man, squinting good humoredly.

"Well, you know my style, old man. She can step along in the best class, and she's got a pedigree eclipsing any around here."

"How long have you had her?" "Just four days," answered the first horseman in the same gleeful tone. "but I've had my eyes on her for some time back."

"Carried this deal through a little on the quiet, didn't you?" "Yep," laughed the first man, with

a head shake of satisfaction. "Is she a record breaker?"

"Sure thing; wouldn't have any other. Wall till you fellows get a glimpse of her, and if you don't agree that I've still got my eyes for winners I'll eat the tail off that horse there." Suddenly the second horseman tern.

ed over toward his friend and thrust out his hand in palpable earnestness.

"Accept my congratulations," said he, "and also give 'em to your-your thoroughbred "

"I will!" heartily returned the other man, gripping the proffered list, "He sure to come in and see us." he added as his friend prepared to drive on. "I know she'll be tickled to meet friend of mine; she isn't too high hitched for that, old man. That's her winning quality. She's a wife fit for a horse judge!"-Detroit Free Press.

THE QUICKEST WAY.

How One Might Travel 190 Miles In About Ten Minutes.

It is estimated that if all mechanical difficulties could be removed and sufficlent power developed the minimum time in which passengers could be transported over the eighty-five miles from New York to Philadelphia would be six minutes and forty-four seconds and for the 190 miles from Boston to New York ten minutes and four seconds. A correspondent of the Scientific American who has been working on the problem says that the trains would have to be run in a vacuum to prevent their being heated to incandescence by the resistance of the air. They would have to be held in suspension in the vacuum tube through which they traveled, for the slightest contact with the sides of the tube would result in enormous friction The cars might be held in suspension by the propulsion of opposing magnets on the cars and on the tubes respectively. When thus isolated they could be propelled only by the power of magnetism. The energy consumed in propelling the cars would be comparatively low

To avoid shock or jar the trains would travel faster and faster uptil one-half of the distance should be covered and then slow down until the destination should be reached. When the rate of acceleration is just such as can be borne with comfort the limit is attained. The effect on the passengers would be a continuous pressure against the back of the sout, as when a car is started suddenly, for the first half of the journey, and then in order to prevent them from pitching out of their seals the chairs would be turned in the opposite direction for the rest of the journey, during which the same sensation would be felt.

The Pip and the Clip. Too much mine pis ind done the

tries Little Matufe fest a pain in her such and hed to go to bed.

The finite physician and bla top Lara Be and present of a thie's mother said very well, but the family phy ician did not know Maimle, and the v or quite sure Multiple would not take the pill. Whe family plant ing said he would make it a sweet pill, but Maimie's mother replied that so long as it was a pill it would be tio use.

Then the family physician was struck with a brilliant idea. The pill should be craftily concealed in the center of a preserved pear and seat up to little Maimle to eat.

An hour later Maimie's mother went to see how her sweetest dear was going on. She appeared to be going ou excellently.

"And did my pet eat all her pear?" inquired the fond mother. "Yes, mumsie," replied the little dar

ling, "all but the masty seed." There's many a clip 'twixt the pear

and the plp.-London Answers.

Bituminous Coal.

The first bituminous coal mined in the United States, states the United States geological survey, was taken from what is usually termed the Rich mond basin, a small area in the south sastern portion of Virginia, near the city of Richmond. This basin is situated on the eastern margin of the Pledmont plateau, thirieen miles above tidewater, on the James river. It lies In Goochland, Henrico, Powhatan and Chesteriield counties. The coal beds are much distorted, and the coal is of rather low grade when compared with that from other districts with which It has to come into competition. The occurrence of coal was known in the Richmond basin as early as 1700, and in 1789 shipments were made to some of the northern states. At present what little coal is produced in this field is for local consumption only,-Scientific American.

Movement of loobergs.

In the investigation of the currents round the coast of Newfoundland it has been observed that there is at times a wide difference in the direction of the drift of icebergs and that of the flat or pan ice, which, having no great depth, is governed in its motions by the surface currents and the winds. whereas the leebergs, the larger parts of which are submerged to a great depth, follow only the movement of the ocean water as a whole and are uninfluenced by the winds. In consequence a huge berg may often be seen majestically maintaining its slow advance in opposition to the wind and across the general motion of the fields of flat ice surrounding it. The sealers often take advantage of this fact by mooring their vessels to an iceberg in order to prevent a drift to leeward. -Philadelphia Record

Hunting the Kangaroo.

When brought to bay the kangaroo jumps like a flash for the hunter's chest and tries to crush it in with his fore feet. To prevent this each man wears across his breast a two or three inch thick matting. Armed with a spear, with a club attachment at the other end, they ride upon swift horses into a herd. With the agility and equipoise of circus riders they stand erect upon their horses and use their spears and clubs.

The kangaroo is able to jump clear over a horse. As the game is bagged it is skinned, and the skin is stretched on the ground and pegg vent shrinkage. The flesh furnishes meat for the camp. Each man places his private mark upon his booty, and when they have 100 aplece they return back to civilization.

HIS TRAGIC DIEMM.

A' Grin Great Slory. Flint Comes Fern the Netherlands.

this wing the triable ghost 7 294 is is built of two brotheses multiliers of a distinguished family in Friesland. a province of the Netherlands: The young men were officers in the same regioent, and their only fault-a cer tain rash valor, so different from the attiet prodence so characteristic of their nation-made their comrades al most idolize them.

These young officers were exceedingly anxious to see a ghost and took a great deal of pains to plunge into all sorts of gloomy places in the hope of finding them tenanted by beings from the other world. At last they seemed to find the orthodox old castle with its haunted room. Everybody bore witness to the horrible sights and sounds nightly to be seen and heard

therein, and these young gentlemen determined to pass the night there. It was Christmas eve, and they provided themselves with a good suppor and a bottle of wine each, a tire, lights

and loaded pistols. The hours wore on. No ghost was seen; no ghostly sounds were heard. The younger brother, wrapped closely in his warm clonk, laid his head on the table and deliberately resigned blusself to a comfortable sleep. The elder brother, though exceedingly weary, determined to remain awake and await the issue of events.

After awhile a noise roused him from a reverie into which he had failen. He raised his eyes and beheld the wall opening in front of his seat. Through the opening glided a tall fig ure in white, who signed to him to follow.

The rose and followed the figure through long, damp, dark passages fill they reached a large, brilliantly lighted room where a hall was going on Above the strains of music and the din of voices pierced a strange, sharp, clicking sound, like the notes of castanets.

Bewildered and dazzled by this sudden- transition from darkness and silence to this gay festive scene, it was some moments before he could collect his senses, but he was shocked by perceiving that these gayly dressed indies and their richly uniformed cavaliers were skeletons, and the curious sound that impressed him so strangely was the clicking of fleshless jaws!

The figure at his side ordered him to take a partner from this hideous throng, which he refused to do. Irritated at this refusal, the figure raised his arm to strike, but the officer instantly leveled at him the pistol he had continued to grasp and discharged it full in his face.

With the shock and report he started to his feet. The white figure, the ballroom, the fearful, ghastly dancers, all had vanished, and he was in the room where he had supped, but his brother lay dying at his side.

He had shot him in his dream and awakened only to receive his last utterance. From that awful Christmas night he was an altered man. All the gayety had gone out of his life, all the sunshine had faded from his days, and after a few years of unavailing anguish of remorse he found himself unable to bear the burden of his regrets and put an end to his life.

O'Connell's Big Head.

Thackeray was six fect two inches in height, and Sir H. W. Lucy says the great novelist wore a seven and fiveeighth inch hat, beating Dickens and hn Bright by a full ha f inch. Mr. Gladstone's hat was of seven and three-eighth inch measurement-the same as Macaulay's-while Beacons field needed a full seven inch. The hat of Daniel O'Connell, however, would have beaten them all, measuring eight and one-half inches by ten inches.

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The Two Angels.

The following allegory is told among the Turks:

Every man has two guardian angels, one on his right shoulder and one on his left. In doing good the angel on the right shoulder notes it down and sets a seal upon it, for what is done is done forever. When evil is committed the angel on the left shoulder writes it down, but he waits until mid-night before he scals it. If by that time the man bows his head and says. "Gracious Allah, 1 have sinned; forgive me!" the ange! blots out the fault. but if not he seals it at midnight, and then the angel on the right shoulder weeps.

A Canine Feat.

A blind man, guided by a large and athletic dog, went down the street the other day. Just as they turned a cor-ner the blind man's dog saw a dog i: knew and darted forward in a way that threw the sightless mendicant to the ground. He was speedily assisted to his feet, however, by a waggish passerby, who remarked that he had heard some remarkable stories of the feats performed by dogs, but this was the first time he had ever known one to pull down the blind.

Forgetful.

Mistress-Did you have company last night, Mary? Mary-Only my Aun: Maria, mum. Mistress-When you see her again will you tell her she lef: her tobacco pouch on the plano?-Illustrated Bits.

Why He Searched.

The old man had evidently dropped something in the muddy road, and he began searching for it. In three min utes about thirty strangers had joined in the search, and every additional minute brought additional searchers. till at last one, bolder than the rest. plucked up heart and spoke:

"What are you looking for?" he in quired.

"My friend," mumbled the old man. "I have dropped a piece of taffy can dy.

"But, great Scott," cried another of the crowd angrily, "why do you go looking for it when it will be covered with dirt?"

"Because, my inquisitive friend," replied the old man, "my false teeth are sticking to that taffy."

Strange Hiding Place.

False teeth are occasionally used for secretive purposes. An eccentric old lady beasts of a roof plate which consists of two thin sheets of gold between which a miniature copy of her will is inserted. In a similar mannet a dyer preserves a prescription which he declares he would not disclose for a large sum.-London Mail.

Envious.

"Just think of it!" said the student of immigration, "Many men who come to this country cannot write their own names."

"Yes," answered Mr. Pinchpenny, "and when I get down my check book on the first of the month I am inclined to envy them."-Washington Star.

Fixing the Break.

"They were both broken up by their separation." "But I understand they've effected a

reconciliation and ar- now re-paired." -St. Louis Star.

There is no teacher like necessity; it has been the making of man; it wakes up his domaant faculties and stimu lates to action his latent talents.

Unreasonable.

She-I don't see why you should heslfate to marry on \$3,000 a year. Papa says my gowns never cost more than that. He-But, my dear, we must have something to eat. She (petulantly)-Isn't that just like a man? Always thinking of his stomach. - Boston Transcript.

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