

Science Notes

BY WILLIAM G. HAYNES.

DR. JEKYL UP TO DATE.

Powerful as Stevenson's celebrated story is, it is doubtful whether he ever considered the alteration of character by the administration of drugs as anything but a figment of his romancing imagination. It was the vehicle which enabled him to point his moral and adorn his tale—that was all. If we are to believe the narrative of Margaret Morris, a nurse who contributes her experience to the "Bedside-Stories" department of the Nurse (James-town, N. Y., September), it has more truth in it than this. Miss Morris saw an overdose of veronal change a maudlin, blear-eyed, shambling debauchee into an upright, self-respecting gentleman, while its effect lasted. Here is her story as she tells it:

"It was while I was nursing in a small hospital in Alaska—a place at which one has many experiences with 'd. t.'—that late one night a man, or the remnants of one, was brought in suffering from the effects of a prolonged debauch. I knew him as a habitue of the dance halls, and a musician who, according to gossip, had made his bow before all the crowned heads of the world. In the maudlin, flabby, blear-eyed, drooling wretch it was difficult enough to recognize a human being, much less a man who had ever achieved a place of honor.

"The doctor told me to give him a dose of veronal, and repeat it in two hours if necessary. He did not sleep at all, even with the second dose. Next morning the doctor said: 'Give him the veronal every two hours until he does sleep. It won't hurt him, and I don't like to give him anything else.' I obeyed orders, though at bedtime that night I told the doctor he had had the veronal every two hours all day and still showed no inclination to sleep. He answered, 'Keep on giving it.' I did so.

"At 2 a. m. he had a dose, and I saw no change in his condition. A half-hour later, as I was passing through the hall, he came to his door and spoke to me.

"I did not recognize him. He was fully dressed and stood as straight as a soldier, with shoulders back and his head up, his lips firm and his eyes clear. Most courteous was his manner as he said in a voice, deep, rich and musical: 'If you will permit me to walk around the block I think I can go to sleep when I come back.' He talked to me for the next fifteen or twenty minutes, cleverly, brilliantly. Never before nor since have I listened to such a symphony in English. The man was entirely transformed.

"I was mystified, puzzled, and at a loss just what to do. But it seemed ridiculously absurd to refuse such a personage anything so simple as a walk around the block. He went, and returned in about fifteen minutes—but how different! A heavy-eyed, slouching figure—dazed, drowsy, and snoring loudly, before I could get him to bed.

"He continued to sleep like this, breathing very heavily, all that night, the next day, the second night, and until noon the following day. I cared for him just as for a patient in a comatose condition. His pulse was good, and the doctor did not feel at all worried. The doctor laughed at me when I told him of the wonderful transformation which had preceded the sleep. But I was not dreaming or 'seeing things,' and have often wished I might know just what had taken place

to make him for the moment the man I saw."

How to Drink from a Bubbling Fountain. "Bite the Bubble."

If improperly constructed or improperly used, the bubbling drinking fountain may be a greater menace to health than the common drinking cup. The other day an inspector of the U. S. public health service took a seat beside a bubbling drinking fountain in a railway station and watched the way in which it was used: Forty-seven different persons, of whom eleven were men, twenty-two were women and fourteen were children, used the bubbling fountain. In almost every case the lips were placed almost completely around the metal ball from which the water spurted, and one small boy seemed as if he were trying to swallow it. Several of the men obviously were chewing tobacco. Of the 47 people, three looked as if they might have tuberculosis, and three had an eruption upon the face.

Every person using the bubbling drinking fountain should bear in mind that the object of this sanitary device is to prevent the interchange of mouth secretions. When mucous and other matter becomes attached to metal it sometimes requires considerable force to remove it, and this is not always accomplished by a slowly moving current of water. In using the bubbling fountain the rule should be "Bite the Bubble." The lips should not touch any part of the fountain, and under no condition should the fountain be used for rinsing the mouth or for expectorating.—Scientific American.

A Camera for Recording Meter Readings.

A leading American camera manufacturer has introduced an electrically-lighted camera for the photographing of meter dials. In order to secure a reading with this photographic recorder, it is only necessary to place the camera opening against the meter dial and press a lever, which automatically opens the shutter as well as switches on four small battery-operated lamps that illuminate the meter dials. The exposures are made on a film consisting of opaque paper coated with an emulsion. The side of the paper next to the emulsion is white, so that the developed film clearly shows the meter readings in reverse order. The film is then placed in a special roll stand that is provided with a mirror so that the meter dials will appear in their proper order. By means of this camera it is possible for an electric light company to possess photographic evidence of the meter readings of all its customers. Obviously, records of this nature avoid the possibility of mis-readings, and discourage controversies between the consumers and the lighting company. The camera weighs about eight pounds and its operation is simple.—Scientific American.

BUYS DESIRABLE PROPERTY.

New Jersey, N. J., Oct. 15—The residents of Leonia, N. J., are much agitated over the sale a few days ago, of a fine cottage, with large grounds, to George S. Mills, an Afro-American, who is preparing to occupy the place with his large family. The sale was made by Mrs. Belle Mooney, the widow of a prosperous New York business man, who died a few years ago. The price paid was \$5,000 cash. Mr. Miss is quite well off.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS.

San Francisco Jews Stand By Negro Guests

San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 15.—Clay Ford, a tailor, 1318 Valencia street, and his wife were invited to an entertainment given by a Jewish society on September 26 in the hall at Van Ness avenue and Sutter street, but the proprietor of the hall, a Southern white man, attempted to force them to leave the building, giving as his reason:

"I am a Southerner and have lived among your people. They have several times tried to rent my hall and I refused because I did not intend for any of them to stand on this floor."

Mr. and Mrs. Ford had been cordially received by their hosts, and the more than 200 Jews present had shown every sign of friendliness. After they had participated in several dances, the Southerner, who is the proprietor, approached them and said to Mr. Ford: "Here is a dollar. You and your wife leave the hall." Mr. Ford refused to accept the dollar and immediately went to the manager of the entertainment. The manager said to the owner: "That man has a card of invitation and HE IS AS GOOD AS YOU ARE."

More than half of the guests present were attracted by the disturbance and when they learned the cause of it, much indignation was expressed. One of the most indignant asked the owner: "Are you a Georgia lyncher?" He was told most pointedly that the hall had been rented by their organization, that Mr. and Mrs. Ford were their guests, and as such would stay as long as they did.

The proprietor, chagrined and disgruntled, left the hall, and the Jewish hosts paid extra attention to Mr. and Mrs. Ford, trying to remove even the remotest remembrance of the unkindly action of the prejudiced Southerner.

WHY MAYOR THOMPSON OF CHICAGO IS POPULAR WITH COLORED AMERICANS

(Continued from first page.)

Thompson is mayor. I hope that I will not need the reminder; but if I do, that token will serve to recall my oath of office to uphold the laws of Chicago and give a square deal to all." "Too much publicity is given the shortcomings and frailties of the colored man, and too little publicity is given his genius and skill.

"We read in the daily prints column after column of sickening detail of crime or misdemeanor committed by some weak, abnormal individual of your race, but seldom do we see accounts of the contributions to the world's work by your sculptors, artists, poets, scientists and educators."

The colored club women of Alabama propose to start a reformatory for colored girls. Two acres for the school were donated by Miss Cornelia Bowen at their recent session. Several years ago these same women started a reformatory for colored boys which the state has since taken over.

M. W. Bullock, the former football star of Dartmouth, gives up his Atlanta law practice to teach at the A. and M. college, Normal, Alabama.

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