

SUPERSTITIONS.

HERITANCE FROM THE OLD WORLD NATIONALITIES.

at Dreams Are Thought to Denote. The Mystery of the Moon—Women's Superstitions Regarding Cats—Breaking a Mirror—Ghost Stories.

With the promiscuous strains of blood that are Americans have flowing in our veins we have inherited the superstitions of many countries in the old world. Whole volumes have been printed of the English, Welsh, Scotch, French, German, Italian and Russian superstitions. Perhaps we have one or two which belong to each nationality. At all events we have a variety.

The commonest superstition regarding dreams is that to dream of gold predicts joy; silver, sorrow; of flying, a journey; of lightning, marriage; of killing serpents, victory; of blindness, poverty; of combing the hair, sickness; of gray hair, death; of flies, enemies; of Cupid, love, but if he breaks his bow, you are to be an old maid or a widow. To dream of white flowers is a good omen; of yellow flowers, you are to attend a funeral. A lady tells the writer that through her whole life all her various afflictions have been foreshadowed by dreaming of an infant. The "child dream," as she calls it, gives her "warning," and she begins to droop like a flower that is partly crushed while waiting for a new baptism of sorrow. Perhaps Jacob's dream of the angels and the ladder is a sufficient foundation for superstitious regarding dreams. "Dreams, idle dreams," says the poet, but they are frequently delightful if they are "idle."

REGARDING THE MOON.

No woman need be ashamed to confess that she is superstitious regarding the moon, or that she deliberately turns her right shoulder toward the new moon and takes a good look at the new silver crescent. The Druids performed mysterious rites in honor of the new moon, and Shakespeare calls her "the sovereign mistress of the melancholy." Probably that is the foundation of calling silly girls or boys "lunatic." The old superstition regarding illness being caused by moonlight shining on the face of a sleeping woman has a curious suspicion of truth in it. Certain school girls having heard that one of their number had a horror of moonlight streaming through the windows of her dormitory, stole noiselessly into her chamber while she was sleeping and pushed back the curtain so as to let the moon shine full on her face. The result of this prank was the serious illness of the girl on whom it was tried—a malady which puzzled the physicians in attendance until the girls confessed their crime. The old English custom for young girls to address the moon on New Year's eve regarding their future partners for life prevails to some extent among us. The girls say: "I pray thee, dear moon, reveal to me who my husband will," etc., and looks for the picture of her beloved that is or to be in the round silver globe. If a cloud sweeps over the disk the girl says: "Alas! not this year, ugly moon!" Many women are superstitious regarding strange cats. If a cat is found in a new house that house is doomed for the ill luck of its occupants. Actresses are said to be superstitious regarding the appearance of a cat on the stage—the great Siddons once fainting when a black cat walked before her during a performance at Drury Lane theater. Most women regard the pulling out of a nail from the wrong side out as a presage of bad luck. Friday is a black day to some women. They will not start upon a journey, begin a piece of work, have company or do any act of importance.

A lady of musical culture, travel and all opportunities which position and wealth can give for intelligence says she has a horror of crossing between the carriages of a funeral procession, and tells her coachman never to drive across the line of a funeral cortege or before a hearse in such a procession. She considers such acts, by accident or purpose, a warning of death to herself or family.

BREAKING A LOOKING GLASS.

To break a looking glass is the presage of some terrible disaster or death in the house where it occurs. De Constant, the favorite valet of Bonaparte, tells of his master being so agonized while in Italy over breaking a mirror that he sent a special envoy to Paris to learn if his beloved Josephine was alive and in safety. Josephine's ill luck, it is said, began soon after this. She was a superstitious as her famous second consort. Tinging of the ears is a sure sign somebody is gossiping about you; burning of the cheeks that one is thinking of you, and if your nose itches you are to see a stranger. Yellow spots on the nails betoken a near approach of death; white spots predict gifts. To cut the nails on Friday or Sunday is awfully unlucky. Then there is the winding sheet in the candle, but if there is a spark in the wick it betokens a letter of good news. To some people odd numbers are lucky; to others, even numbers.

Of all things a "wraith" is most to be dreaded—in short, a ghost of some one you have known or of yourself. Robert Dale Owen, in his "Footprints on the Boundary of Another World," says that the Holland family of England always see their own resemblance as a warning of death. One of the fairest ladies of this noble family saw a most complete and perfect likeness of herself coming toward her in the garden. She understood this premonition, and calmly prepared for her exit from this mundane sphere. A group of ladies gathered in a country house during the gloaming told ghost stories recently till they were afraid to retire. The crowning experience was that of one of the number while in a curious mental and physical condition had beheld herself dead and her husband weeping beside her. As the pathetic or the serious is first cousin to the comic, so it was a relief to this gathering to hear the narrator, a buxom, healthy woman, "fair, fat and forty," say: "But, you see, here I am, and the mourner has been mourned."—Brooklyn Eagle.

An Anecdote of Franklin.

A volume of annals of old Philadelphia contains an anecdote of Franklin which will, we think, be new to our readers. A few days after he began to publish a newspaper, he commented sharply on the dishonest conduct of certain influential and wealthy town officials. Three or four of his friends, young mechanics like himself, anxious to rise in the world, sharply reproved him for his impudence, and told him that a poor man could not afford thus to make enemies. Franklin listened in silence and patience, and when the lecture was over asked his critics to sup with him. They came and sat down, expecting a luxurious meal, such as was common in those days among the well to do. Before each guest, however, was a bowl of mush and milk and a pitcher of water. They tried in vain to swallow the coarse fare, watching Franklin as he emptied his bowl with evident relish. When he had ended he said: "This is my usual supper. I have an ad-

WONDERFUL ARAB DOCTORS.

Ex-United States Minister Marsh's Account of a Couple of Wonderful Cures.

Ex-United States Minister George P. Marsh's recent book chronicles a curious experience at Cairo. After returning from their journey to Upper Egypt Mr. Marsh and another member of his party, a Miss Paine, found themselves completely disabled by severe sprains which the surgical skill of the Frank doctors proved powerless to remedy. They were assured by their dragoman that an Arab miracle worker of his acquaintance could cure the sprains at once, and they finally determined to call on the inheritor of the secrets of the Pharaohs. So the dragoman presented himself, "bringing with him the most extraordinary looking creature that can well be imagined. He was scarce five feet in height, and was clad in a single garment of cotton fastened about the waist with a leather belt. His old withered face was lighted up by one eye only, and that seemed but half open, while nothing about his person would have led one to believe that the waters of the broad Nile were within reach. There was an unmistakable look of mortification on the part of those who had consented to summon the Esculapius, but there was no hope for it now.

"At this moment a visitor was announced to Mr. Marsh, and the lady, therefore, was the first to prove the wild man's skill. He examined the injured foot, placed it in warm water, dipped his own fingers in olive oil and rubbed and pressed the foot very gently for about twenty minutes. He then carefully dried it and bade his patient walk. She hesitated, having suffered so much and so long from every effort of that kind, but an impatient Persian 'Inshah, Inshah!' decided her. She placed her foot firmly on the floor and took a step—another, and another, and still no pain. In a few minutes she was on the street, and after strolling some hours among the bazars of the city returned without the least feeling of discomfort. The cure was perfect and permanent."

"Meanwhile, Mr. Marsh received equally convincing proof of the powers of the Arabian physician. "His foot and ankle, which were both badly swollen and discolored, were very sensitive to the manipulation, and especially to the energetic pulling, which in his case was a part of the treatment, and at the end of three-quarters of an hour he was well again, his foot, he was surprised to find that the swelling had disappeared, the color was almost entirely natural, and the shoe and stocking which had been laid aside almost two weeks were put on with perfect ease. He was then directed to walk, which to his amazement he found he could do without the least pain, and the only unpleasant sensation experienced afterward was a slight stiffness for the first day or two, which, however, did not in the least interfere with walking."—Detroit Free Press.

Bathing and Swimming Suits.

A preferred style in bathing suits affects the blouse waist with a yoke, which conceals the figure and has a pleasing effect. Short sleeves are now generally liked, as they leave the arms of the swimmer free; the drawers, or those at the knees are preferred to the closed Turkish drawers, and they must be sewed permanently to the belt of the blouse, or else very securely buttoned there. The drawers are made long enough to fall just below the knees, and the skirt should be sufficiently long to conceal the drawers. The blouse is completed by a sailor collar, or else the deep collar is round in the back, though pointed in front in sailor fashion. Striped skirts are much used with plain suits that have also a striped collar. Albatross flannel of the heavy grades yet not closely woven is chosen for bathing suits; it should be well shrunken before the garments are cut out. Elastic jersey wool bathing suits are in great favor, and are in dark colors, such as plain navy blue, or blue with white cross stripes, also garnet or gray, and are very pretty in white wool, with red or blue stripes. These have the yoke waist and drawers cut together in princess fashion, with a skirt belted over them; there are other jersey suits, with the blouse and skirt in one piece. Hercules braid and the open woven wool braids in trim flannel and serge suits. Inexpensive suits of dark gray flannel have either black or blue braid for trimming. A fisherman's cap with tasseled crown is made of jersey wool for bathers. Other bathing caps of oil rubber have a puff crown drawn up, with a narrow frill in front to cover the bang, and a deeper frill behind to protect the back of the neck. Hats of gossamer or of oil silk have a large full crown, and a brim with wire in the edge that can be drawn down over the ears, while the head goes in the crown. Silk handkerchiefs of navy blue or of bandanna red are worn around the head to protect the hair, and are knotted about the neck in sailor fashion.—Harper's Bazar.

Earth Worms Causing Trichinae.

It is a not uncommon occurrence that a parasite inhabits different animals at different stages of its growth. This is the case with the small thread worm, Syn gamus tracheatis, which infests the windpipe of the pheasant, peacock, turkey, duck and other fowls, and often occasions considerable damage. Mr. Walker, of Frankfort, K. Y., has recently made some investigations on this subject. He finds that the intermediate host of the embryo syngamus is the common earth worm, which in places visited by birds has been found to be beset with these parasites. They are swallowed by the birds along with the worms, and perforating the oesophagus, find their way into the respiratory organs. During, or immediately after, this migration the syngamus attains sexual maturity and attaches itself to the trachea. This happens in six or seven days after it has been swallowed. In seven days more its eggs are produced, which are coughed up by the bird and reach the ground, where the embryo emerges in about three weeks. It is swallowed by a worm and remains in its intestinal canal until deoiled by a bird. The best method to check this disease is to moisten the soil with brine, which kills both the worms and the embryo syngamus which they contain. Birds which have died of this disease should be destroyed by fire.—New York Star.

A Word About Gloves.

The fit of a glove depends greatly on the manner in which the glove is put on for the first time. The wrist portion should be turned over one inch below the opening before being drawn on the hand, and the fingers put on straight, and then carefully, with patient pressure of the thumbs and fingers of the right hand, each must be well pressed down to the very points. Twisted fingers ruin gloves. The specialty called Beaver Nantwich are drawn into the wrist, and flow out into a gannlet over the sleeve. They are delightful to touch and comfortable to wear. There are several varieties of driving and riding gloves; chamois gloves for seaside wear, and a better and more reliable kind than the usual make. Fine suede gloves for evening wear, twenty button length, in all the lovely cool tan and biscuit shades, are beautiful and reasonable. Mousquetaire styles prevail when undressed kid is the material, and either buttoned or loose wrists when dressed kid is preferred.

CHAPTER ON DEAFNESS.

THE EAR A MOST INTRICATE AND WONDERFUL STRUCTURE.

Throat Deafness and Its Treatment. Other Varieties of Complaint—Singing in the Ears—The Deaf Colonel—An English Physician's Suggestions.

It would take a much longer paper than I have space to write to describe the anatomy of the ear and the pathology of the different kinds of deafness. It is a most intricate structure, fearfully and wonderfully made, and consisting of tubes external and internal, a drum, muscles, nerves and bones of its own, all lying inside one of the hardest and strongest bones of the human body. This latter was specially designed by nature to shield it from blows. It is supplied with air by a long tube called the eustachian, opening into the back part of the throat.

This tube I mention specially to account for the fact of people becoming deaf through bad colds or swelling of the tonsils. Observe that the ear must be supplied with air, or hearing becomes an impossibility. You hear this air crackling in the ear when you go through the process of swallowing the saliva. Well, if it is closed by the products of inflammation, or if it be shut up as to its mouth by the pressure of a swollen tonsil, it is obvious enough partial or complete deafness will be the result for the time being.

This is sometimes called throat deafness, and, like every other form of the complaint, requires special treatment. It is, perhaps, one of the commonest, if not the commonest kind. If caused by the pressure of the tonsils it is merely mechanical, and the remedy is removal of the cause. When, however, it is caused by the extension of inflammation of mucous membrane during a cold, it may or may not depart with the cold. It would then have to be seen to surgically, and the passing of a catheter might be necessary, a simple but delicate operation which only a professional man could be trusted to perform.

VARIOUS KINDS OF DEAFNESS.

Another very common species of deafness is that caused by obstruction of the external meatus of the ear with wax, which may be dissolved out or syringed out by a practiced hand, when the cure would be complete. If the drum of the ear be eaten through by ulceration, no permanent cure is of course to be expected, but a visit to a clever aurist may send the patient home rejoicing nevertheless. There are inflammations of various other portions of the ear which I need not mention, all of which cause deafness. There is also a kind of deafness caused by paralysis of the nerves which carry the impression to the brain from the ear.

Many forms of the complaint are accompanied, especially at the outset, by disagreeable noises in the organ, or apparently in that part of the brain adjoining. It is as if one were actually listening to the rush of the blood through the vessels of the brain. I am not sure that it is not so, and that one cannot even judge of the state of his circulation by these sounds alone. Both this same singing in the ears may occur in those who are not deaf, and if it continues long it is well to consult your physician, especially if you be fat and plethoric, for it may be an early symptom of apoplexy, or what is called "a stroke."

We often hear one friend say to another: "You're very deaf today," and perhaps the reply is: "Well, I am a bit deaf today; I vary with the weather." This is a species of deafness common in the nervous, and really arises from debility, consequent perhaps upon some temporary derangement of the digestive organs. People subject thereto should live carefully and abstemiously. They should try to live so as to be independent of the use of drugs.

HEARING IMPROVED BY NOISE.

I have heard it said that the deaf hear better when any noise is going on, whether he be talking or not. I really believe that is the true reason. But my grandfather used to relate an instance of the deaf colonel of a regiment who was so convinced of the truth of this opinion that whenever he had to converse on parade with any of his men or officers, he used to have the drummer to beat up close alongside.

There is one affection of the ear which is of a very disagreeable kind, and which I must mention while I think of it—running from the ear. If the exuding matter were non-offensive it would be bad enough, but from being mingled, I suppose, with the secretion of wax it is fetid. The most simple form is that occurring in children of a strumous diathesis, where it proceeds simply from the outer canal of the ear. It is not then dangerous in itself, and is remediable by great attention to health and injections of an astringent and disinfectant nature applied by means of a little syringe.

And now, what have I to say about the treatment of deafness? Very little, I fear. Were I talking to students it would be different, but the ear is such a delicate organ that in nine cases out of ten meddling domestic surgery makes matters worse. Each case must be treated on its own merits, and the sooner the better—simple cases, I pur own medical opinion, are the more difficult by those men who make the ear a specialty.

But as prevention is better than cure, I may mention that no one should expose his ears to draughts, especially blizzards; that the less interference with the ear at all times the better; for example, poking the ear, or poking pins or penholders in it, does not conduce to contentment; that wearing cotton or wool in the ears is a stupid and dangerous practice, and more likely to induce cold than prevent it; that scrubbing the ear out in the morning with the corner of the towel is bad practice; and finally, that boxing a child on the ear may lead to permanent deafness.—Family Doctor in Cassell's Magazine.

Charles Reade's Literary Methods.

Charles Reade wrote much and well. He rose at 8 o'clock, took breakfast at 9, and at 10 commenced his literary work, which usually continued until 9 in the afternoon. He wrote in his drawing room, and when the French windows were closed no sounds from the street could be heard. When once fairly on the way with a novel he worked with rapidity. He wrote with a large pen, with very black ink, on large sheets of drab colored paper. Each sheet was numbered as written and thrown on the floor, which, after a few hours' writing, was completely covered. A maid servant gathered up the manuscript, which, after being put in order, was sent to a copyist, who made, in a round hand, a clear copy. Mr. Reade then went carefully over it, making improvements by omissions and additions.

The revised sheets were once more copied for the printer. He seldom dictated a story, but had not any objection to the company of a friend in his room when busy with his pen. He would sometimes relieve the monotony of his work by watching a game of tennis on his lawn, or the gambols of his tame hares, or the traffic passing in the street, at the bottom of his garden. Mr. Reade did not take any lunch; he dined late and generally finished the day with a visit to the theatre.—William Andrews in Home Journal.

HERO AND LEANDER.

Between the foiled blackness of the sea and sky. She sees her lover's face gleam like a lotus flower— One breathless moment stands with flaring lamp held high— Then, like a falling star, drops from her foam girt tower.

Above the loud, insatiate sea, with hurrying feet, All heedless of the unaccustomed path they tread, Two shining shapes flash through the ebon gloom —to meet— And cling—and pass content—nor dream that they are dead. —Felix Gray in New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The Cars of "Juggernaut."

One of the most widely known idols is Juggernaut, on account of the fanatical custom of his followers in flinging themselves beneath the wheels of the great cars on festival days. The British government has put a stop to the frozen carryings on, but the monster cars are yet seen standing in the center of the villages as one passes through. They are still used to draw the idol through the streets, the ponderous vehicles being dragged along by crowds of people. These Juggernaut cars are really gorgeous affairs, covered with gilt, mirror work and paintings, equipping the most gorgeous circus wagons ever seen in America. Juggernaut is usually built of wood, and once a year is taken out of the temple to be bathed in the presence of vast crowds. This process is supposed to give the idol a cold, and so, ten days later he is placed in the car, and amid the wildest tumult, is hauled away to pay a visit to some other idol near by, for a change of air. After remaining on fraternal friendship with his host for a week, he is dragged back home. Juggernaut, it will be seen, is a comical looking idol, his pedigree is rather obscure, but he is thought to have been some local divinity of some aboriginal tribe whose worship, at some remote period, was engrafted into Hinduism, and their idol admitted into the omnium gatherum of the Hindoo pantheon.—Thomas Stevens.

Hints in Literary Composition.

In answer to a correspondent, Mr. Philip G. Hamerton detailed particulars of his method of work. Said Mr. Hamerton in his interesting letter: "I think that there are two main qualities to be kept in view in literary composition—frankness and finish. The best way, in my opinion, of attaining both is to aim at freshness in the rough draft, with little regard to perfection of expression; the finish can be given by copious subsequent correction, even to the extent of writing all over again when there is time. Whenever possible, I would assimilate literary to plainness, by using the rough draft as a rapid and vigorous sketch, without any regard to delicacy of workmanship; then I would write from this a second work, retaining as much as possible the freshness of the first, but correcting the oversights and errors which are due to rapidity."—Home Journal.

Dollar Hunters Destitute of Humor.

Certain pursuits, certain habits of mind tend to repress, and finally eradicate humor. Among these, notably, are the rough draft as a rapid and vigorous sketch, without any regard to delicacy of workmanship; then I would write from this a second work, retaining as much as possible the freshness of the first, but correcting the oversights and errors which are due to rapidity."—Home Journal.

The Phonograph Not Perfect.

Edison's claim that his phonograph will displace the stenographer is a little vivid. Mr. L. F. Brown, who has carefully examined the invention, says it can never arrive at that state of perfection. He says of it: "It is too complicated with its rubber hose mouthpiece, its discs and needles (I use technical names), its hearing tube adjusters and additional ear pieces, sound multipliers, lath knife, electric attachments, wax register sleeves, wires, battery and weight. And its tone is too indistinct and metallic. If a cornet is placed into it the beauty of the music is not preserved; its reproduction is like that of a ventriloquist."—Detroit Free Press.

Silent Forces of Nature.

Mr. Profundity sat at the breakfast table and between sips of coffee discoursed ponderously as follows: "It is the silent forces of nature that are most potent. The silent stream runs deepest; the silent power of solar heat brings forth the flower and grain; the silent moon heaps up the ocean tides, and—and—" "The silent sow gets the most swill," said Profundity's wife, helping him out as he hesitated for similes and spilled soft boiled egg on his manly bosom.—Arkansas Traveler.

Artist Whistler's Dining Room.

The dining room of the artist Whistler is furnished in yellow and greenish blue. The walls are painted in this greenish blue, and the ceiling is pale yellow, while the arched stone is yellow, and lemon colored tiles bordered with blue add a finish to the fireplace. The matting is in blue and yellow squares, while yellow curtains, elaborately embroidered, fall unconfined from the top of the windows to the floor.—Harper's Bazar.

Fresh from the Filter.

"Rastus—An' how's de ole woman, Uncle Zekai!" "Zekai—Posibly, chile, possibly. She's dat weak in her insides dat she can't drink nuthin' but pilfered watah." "Rastus—Fo' de lawd! wot kind of watah an' dat?" "Zekai—Pears like yo' g'it granoraner as you gits older. De pilfered watah an' de power stuff, wot all 'dewities an' pilfered out wid sand an' grabbel."—Pittsburg Bulletin.

Quacks and Invalids.

A recent number of The Health and Home states that there are 250,000 chronic invalids in the United States. The names of these invalids are known, and are peddled, quoted and sold as an article of commerce. In support of the statement, the names of quack doctors dealing in them are given.—The Argonaut.

At the Picnic.

He (with a bunch of wild flowers in his hand)—Ah, my dear Miss Seacandyellow, what kind of posies will you choose? She (in a perfect twitter)—Oh, Mr. Smith! Oh, he, he, he, I will choose two posies. Mr. Smith sinks into the earth.—Washington Critic.

The latest returns of the various branches of the International Sunday School union make the number of Sunday school teachers in the world to be 1,504,613 and the scholars 12,050,367.

The Plattsmouth Herald

Is enjoying a Boom in both its

DAILY AND WEEKLY

EDITIONS.

The Year 1888

Will be one during which the subjects of national interest and importance will be strongly agitated and the election of a President will take place. The people of Cass County who would like to learn of

Political, Commercial and Social Transactions

of this year and would keep apace with the times should

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