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WILLARD KIMBALL, Director.

THE HISTORY OF NORAH S.

AN EPISODE OF DOUBLE PERSONALITY.

I

This history of a case of double personality has not, so far as I know, been recorded before. More than twenty years have elapsed since the death of Norah S., and it is not now possible to obtain many of the details which one would like to have. But, even in its imperfect state, the history seems to me to present peculiarities which make it remarkable. The first part contains information supplied by Miss X., who acted as Norah's governess and, at a later period, as companion. This lady is still alive, and her wish to have all names suppressed must be respected. The information is supplemented by a few entries in the note book of a doctor who, at one time, attended Norah.

Norah's parents died when she was still a baby, and, unfortunately their history cannot be traced. Her father was an English artist, the mother was French, and much younger than her husband. They lived abroad—at Rome for the greater part of the year. It was there that they died, within a few days of one another, of malignant malarial fever. Norah was brought to England and adopted by a childless couple—her father's brother and his wife.

The adoptive father has practically nothing to do with this story. He seems to have been a commonplace little man, energetic in his profession—he was a solicitor—and completely under the dominion of his wife at home. Mrs. S. was a woman of strong and narrow religious convictions and a kindly nature. Both were devoted to the child. They lived in a suburb of a North country manufacturing town, where Mr. S. had his practice. Up to the age of eight Norah received a certain amount of desultory teaching from Mrs. S. Then a regular governess was engaged.

Miss X. was at that time a teacher of more enthusiasm than judgment. Norah was very fond of her; she was a child of precocious intelligence; she was eager to learn. Miss X. was proud of her pupil, and pushed her on. The child worked six hours a day, as a rule—some times more—and she really did work. At that time unreasoning education was just coming into fashion. One is not surprised to find that shortly after Norah's ninth birthday the doctor had to be called in.

He was an old gentleman, and he kept a kind of rough note book, in which he recorded things of medical and other interest. He speaks of Norah as a pretty little gipsy. He found that she slept ill, was very nervous, and had a poor and capricious appetite. She was anemic, but he bled her all the same. For the rest his treatment seems to a layman to have been sensible enough. He gave her a tonic, which probably did her no harm. He regulated her diet. He absolutely forbade all lessons for the next three months. He sent her to the seaside, and gave instructions that she was to play with other children. He noticed by the way—of course before the days when such things became

a special duty—that Norah frowned and twisted her face if she was asked a question that it was difficult or unpleasant for her to answer.

The child went to Lowestoft with her adoptive mother and Miss X. Mr. S. was detained by his business. The doctor had given Miss X. the rough side of his tongue; in his note book he speaks of her as "the hired assassin;" she was duly penitent. But the old gentleman recognized that she had made her mistake through ignorance, and that the adoptive mother had shared the ignorance and encouraged the over-pressure. He saw, too, that the child was very fond of her, and that it would be bad for the child to part them at this juncture. Miss X., in her distress, had resigned her post, but the doctor would not permit her to go. He told her bluntly that she had done enough harm without that. She was now as eager to amuse Norah and nurse her back to health as she had formerly been to turn her into an infant prodigy. The child got rapidly better.

On the afternoon of September 28th, 1864—the date is fixed by a letter in Miss X's possession—Norah went out to play on the beach with some young friends whose acquaintance she had recently made. At tea-time, as she did not return, Miss X. went out to look for her. She found her alone, under the cliffs, fast asleep. She woke her.

"Why, Norah, you've been asleep," she said.

The child looked surprised. "I'm not Norah," she said. "Norah's gone away. I'm Janet."

Miss X. at first thought this was some childish joke, "and who is she. And who's Janet?" she asked.

"Norah's twin sister. Didn't you know? She's told me all about you and Mrs. S."

So far as I know, Norah's parents had no other child. It is worth noting, too, that the normal Norah never spoke of "Mrs. S." She always called her "mother."

Miss X. began to get rather nervous, but she still tried to get the child to confess that this was some silly joke. It was useless. The child persisted that she was Janet. She was annoyed at having it questioned, and asked Miss X. not to tease her.

She was taken home, and there Mrs. S. clung to the theory that it was some piece of naughtiness or silliness on Norah's part, though she owned that it was quite out of keeping with Norah's usual behavior. The child was cross-examined, bullied, frightened, but all through she stuck to her statement that she was not Norah, but Janet. Mrs. S. brought out a new picture book, and said she would give it to her if she would write her proper name in it.

"I will write Norah's name, if you like, but I am not Norah. She has gone away."

She picked up a pencil and wrote the name quickly and without hesitation. Then the two women knew that something was wrong; for the name was written in looking-glass writing—writing

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that must be held to a mirror to be read. After that, at Miss X's suggestion, they dropped the question of identity, and talked to her about other things. She seemed perfectly reasonable, but less quick to understand things than Norah usually was. It was noticed that, unlike Norah in her normal condition, she was left-handed. Miss X. thinks there were some other slight differences from the normal Norah—in the appearance of the eyes, the tone of the voice, and the choice of words. But as to these she cannot speak very precisely after this length of time.

The child slept until long after her usual hour next morning. When she woke next morning she had no knowledge of anything that had happened since she went to sleep on the bench. She was completely restored to her normal condition. Mrs. S. had been in a state of great distress. It was not un-

[First Pub., July 21-4]

Notice to Creditors.—E 1465.

In the county court of Lancaster county, Nebraska.

In the matter of the estate of Nathaniel Leech, deceased.

To the Creditors of Said Estate: You are hereby notified, that the county Judge will sit at the county court room in Lincoln, in said county, on the 1st day of December 1900, and again on the 1st day of March, 1901, to receive and examine all claims against said estate, with a view to their adjustment and allowance. The time limited for the presentation of claims against said estate is six months from the 1st day of September, 1900, and the time limited for the payment of debts is one year from the 1st day of September, 1900.

Notice of this proceeding is ordered published four weeks successively in The Courier of Lincoln, Nebraska, a weekly newspaper published in this state.

Witness my hand and the seal of said county court this 14th day of July 1900.

(SEAL) FRANK R. WATERS, County Judge.

By WALTER A. LEESE, Clerk County Court.

First Pub., July 28-3.

Notice of Final Report.—E 1380.

In the County Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska.

In re estate of Christina Hass, deceased. The state of Nebraska to Theodore Kline, guardian of Jacob Kline, insane; Jacob Kline, Charles Kline, Theodore Kline; to all persons interested in said estate, and to any other heirs or next of kin of the said Christina Hass, deceased.

Take notice that Theodore Kline has filed a final report of his acts and doings as administrator of said estate, and it has been ordered that said matter be set for hearing on the 14th day of August, 1900, before said county court, in the court house, at Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, at the hour of ten o'clock A. M., at which time any person interested may appear and contest the same; and notice of this proceeding is ordered published for three weeks consecutively in The Courier of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Witness my hand and the seal of said county court this 20th day of July, 1900.

(SEAL) FRANK R. WATERS, County Judge.

By WALTER A. LEESE, Clerk County Court.

CHEAP EXCURSION RATES TO COLORADO.

On June 21, July 7, 8, 9, 10 and 18 and Aug. 2, tickets from points west of Missouri River, and east of Colby, Kansas, to Denver, Colorado Springs, Manitou, Pueblo, Salt Lake city, and Ogden, Utah, and return, will be sold by the

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