

CAUSE OF DELUSIONS

New Disease Mixes Sounds, Colors, Odors and Tastes.

Physicians Now Recognize Condition Which Probably Accounts for Hallucinations of Insane—It is Called Synesthesia.

New York.—Physicians now recognize a condition which probably accounts for the hallucinations and delusions of the insane. It is called synesthesia, and those afflicted with it are known as synesthetes. It is that peculiar condition in which sounds create the idea of colors, and vice versa, or in which colors, tastes, sounds and odors are confused.

"Synesthesia is not a matter of much practical importance," says American Medicine, "but it is highly interesting to say the least. It is that curious phenomenon of the overflow of sensations so that air waves, for instance, give a sensation of color as well as sound. It seems that through some defect of development of the cortical centers of the brain are not insulated from each other completely, so that a stimulus received from the retina, say, is not confined to the visual centers, but affects adjoining ganglia.

"The commonest form is colored hearing, and most of the cases of synesthesia investigated up to a few years ago were of this type. No two were alike, that is, the same sound would cause different colors or shades in the different cases; a locomotive whistle would be yellow to one, or white to another, and so on.

"Moreover, in some cases only a few sounds are colored, such as the tones of a piano from black in the bass to white in the upper keys with a spectrum in between. In other cases every sound has a light sensation added to it. Then there are cases in which colors or odors give sound sensations—glaring colors being loud, literally as well as figuratively, and, of course, there must be an infinite variety of mixtures of the other sensations.

The most distressing cases are those in which there is no actual confusion of sensations, so that odors and tastes and sounds are not differentiated. No doubt these abnormalities are at the basis of many delusions and hallucinations of the insane.

"The nervous instability of synesthetics is the practical side of this subject. Without an exception, the cases present evidences indicating considerable nervous involvement in the way of abnormal development. Some if not most of them are highly intelligent, though incapable of that hard work necessary for success, and all are very sensitive to irritations which the average man ignores.

"Perhaps the condition is far from common than we imagine, and it would be well to keep it in mind in the treatment of neurasthenics. We might find that they are great sufferers from jarring sensations, not in the way usually thought of, but in these overflows to other centers. A normal woman may be made actually ill by garish colors or coarsely arranged music, and we all know the bad effects of certain tastes and colors; how much more suffering these must be in synesthetics where the irritant affects more than one center.

"Of course the cases are so few in number that the general practitioner rarely if ever sees them, but he is liable to have milder, borderline types in which a little attention to aesthetics may make all the difference between success and failure in treatment."

FIGHT WITH BIG COPPERHEAD

Pennsylvania Sign Painter Frightened at First, Returns and Dispatches Reptile.

Allentown, Pa.—Eugene Carl, an Allentown sign painter, is laid up with twitching nerves as a result of a battle with a monster copperhead. He was walking across the meadow at Dorney park to paint a sign, when he heard a hissing noise and saw the reptile coiled to strike. He fought the snake off as best he could by striking it with his paint brush and kettle, but the reptile was as skillful as a boxer, and finally reached him; but, fortunately, its fangs were only imbedded in his trousers and did not strike the skin. Carl's cries brought to his help Calvin Nyce, who killed the snake with a stick. It was 5 1/2 feet long. After thinking over the matter over night Nyce went to the spot again and found the snake's companion, a female, with 24 young ones, which were dispatched.

GET WHEAT BISCUITS QUICK

From Field to Table in Just Half an Hour is Record Made by Farmer Near Beloit, Kan.

Beloit, Kan.—Biscuits ready to eat made from wheat that was standing in the field just thirty minutes before is the record made by W. S. Gable, a farmer living two miles from here. The header was driven into the wheat field at 8:16 o'clock. One minute later the wheat in the straw was at the separator. A quantity was threshed, loaded into the farmer's automobile and at 8:23 was at the mill. Six minutes saw the wheat come out as flour and a minute later the automobile delivered flour at a downtown bakery. Fourteen minutes later, at 8:44 o'clock, the biscuits were removed from the oven, baked and ready to eat.

GAS AS CONSUMPTION CURE

Claim Made by English Physician and Brought to the Attention of King—Reports Progress.

London.—Interest increases in the claim by Dr. Bryant of Thornton, Bradford, that gases arising from maggots and putrefied flesh are a cure for consumption, and during the past week he has received about 400 letters from consumptives in England and Scotland.

He has also been visited by many people suffering from the disease, especially from districts in Lancashire, who desire to remain and subject themselves to the treatment. Most of these, however, have had to be sent home, as he has already on his hands as many patients as he can accommodate. So numerous, indeed, are these that they have to sit in the room where the gases are produced in their turns.

In every case Mr. Bryant claims the patients are making substantial progress toward recovery. It has been suggested that the gases should be bottled and sent to consumptive people so that they might be inhaled at their homes, but for the time being Mr. Bryant is taking no steps in that direction. The erection of larger premises at Thornton is delayed pending the investigation by Dr. Kaye, the medical officer of the West Riding of Yorkshire, who has been requested by John Burns to report on the discovery.

This investigation will take place ere long, and Mr. Bryant awaits the report with the utmost confidence.

It may be mentioned that a gentleman who has taken a keen interest in the discovery has drawn the attention of the king to it, and he has also written to the National Society for the Prevention of Consumption.

Mr. Bryant in the course of a conversation stated that the members of the medical profession were now taking his claim more seriously than they did at first, and some of them had acknowledged that they were making experiments with trimethylamine and ammonia, the gases which are supposed to effect the "cures."

CARRIES A DOG IN HANDBAG

Wealthy Mexican Planter Pays Regular Rate for Tiny Animal at a California Establishment.

Long Beach, Cal.—"No dogs allowed" is one of the few rules of the Virginia hotel, and so well established is the restriction that it was the greatest surprise that Manager Car Stanley was notified that a dog was heard to bark in Suite 11, occupied by a wealthy traveler from Mexico.

Manager Stanley visited the suite and though the occupant, Senor Santiago Rodriguez de Alamosa, a wealthy tobacco planter of Mexico, could understand little English, he was informed that the rule prohibited dogs except in the cellar, under the care of the porter.

"Madre de Dios, Esta perro es un paro muy bueno," said the excited Spaniard, holding up to the gaze of the astonished boniface an animal no larger than a rat, but a full grown Chihuahua dog.

"Ye no me gusta que se vive en el sitana peraitas quero que se vive en el cuarto con migo," which means in Long Beach English that suite 11 was none too good for the dog, whose ancestors were pelted by Montezuma, and that its present owner did not care to have it consigned to the cellar.

On account of the diminutive size of the pet and the owner's assurance that no harm would come to the furniture, and his agreement to pay the same rate per day for the dog that he paid for his accommodations and that of his family of five persons, he was permitted to keep his pet. The little animal is the especial pet of the Spaniard's youngest child, Rachel. It weighs less than one pound and is carried in an ordinary reticule or hand bag such as affected by women.

BRIDE IS SOUNDLY SPANKED

Eloping California Couple Married at Quincy Bump Up Against Most Unusual Experience.

Quincy, Cal.—Edward Prince and Radie Acres eloped on horseback from Chico and were married here. On returning from the Methodist parsonage to their hotel after the ceremony, the parents of the bride, who had followed in pursuit, hoping to prevent the ceremony, confronted them. When they learned the wedding ceremony had been performed, Mrs. Acres boxed the ears of the groom soundly, and then, in view of a large number of summer tourists, spanked her daughter.

An application to the sheriff revealed the fact that the girl was only sixteen, and the parents could proceed against Prince in a criminal action. After some consultation, argument and pleading, however, on behalf of the bride and groom, Mrs. Prince's parents forgave her and the two couples left for home, a happy wedding party.

TURKEY BUZZARD CAUSES WRECK

Los Angeles, Cal.—The lives of a score of passengers on two inbound beach cars were placed in jeopardy the other night by a huge turkey buzzard, who charged the brilliant headlight of the flyer. He missed his aim and crashed through the glass door, knocking the motorman back into the aisle. The other car, having the right of way, was already on a switch and the cars crashed, both being derailed. None of the passengers was injured.

TO TEACH FARMING

Commissioner of Massachusetts Board of Education Approves.

Hoped to Disseminate Principles Broadcast Throughout Commonwealth and Bring About Reclamation of Abandoned Farms.

Boston.—After many years of discussion a definite program, arranged by David Snedden, commissioner of the state board of education, has been submitted to the legislature whereby it is proposed to have scientific farming taught in the public schools and its principles disseminated broadcast throughout the entire state.

By his program the commissioner hopes to bring about the reclamation of abandoned farms and a general development of agriculture along expert lines. His recommendations call for the establishment of six state agricultural schools and an agricultural department in every high school in the state.

Not only is this sweeping addition to the system of the state approved by the educational authorities, but it is supported as a thoroughly practical measure by Secretary J. Lewis Ellsworth, of the state board of agriculture, whose knowledge of farming conditions and possibilities is unquestioned.

"That the farming population will be increased and that the "back to the land" impulse will be gratified with a certainty of success by the city bred high school graduates of the next few years are results to be expected. Also, it is the most practical step toward utilizing small plots of land in intensive farming.

On this point Secretary Ellsworth says:

"From the agricultural standpoint the recommendations of the state board of education are very welcome, and they bear out the conclusions that progressive farmers have arrived at. The scientific instruction in farming as a life work is needed just as much as the vocational instruction in other lines.

"The farmer today knows this, and with the teaching of boys in high schools or separate agricultural schools we will receive recruits for the farm work of the future.

"General instruction in agriculture will be of special value in fitting the students for working profitably small plots near our large cities where there is a ready market. This calls for intensive farming to achieve the fullest profits, and the graduates of these schools will be fitted for such work."

The importance of his recommendations is dwelt upon by Dr. Snedden, who has spent the last year in investigating the special needs of agricultural education. One of the most important of these as it is set forth in the carefully considered report of the board, is:

"The growing commercial and industrial school facilities open to boys and girls fourteen years of age and older tend to lure away from the land and into congested centers, in the absence of competent and attractive agricultural education, many young people whose natural aptitude would make them, if properly trained, better and more prosperous citizens in the country.

"Financial aid for agricultural education suitable for adults and for college students has for a half century been furnished by the commonwealth and by the federal government. State aid for vocational training of the secondary grade in agriculture is, moreover, entirely in keeping with state aid for independent industrial school work and to some extent has been provided for.

"The slow development of secondary agricultural schools, the testimony of farmers throughout the state, and the demand for the investigation which was made by the legislature in 1910 are evidence of the need of additional legislation providing for this kind of agricultural education."

TO BATHE AT TOWN'S COST

Request of Inmate of Connecticut Poorhouse Stire Officials and Request Be Granted.

Hartford, Conn.—The clean years are to follow the four years in Manchester for Walter Jackson, the venerable negro, who, in addition to being prominent as the only inmate of Manchester town house, is now noted state-wide as the only person in the commonwealth who has escaped a voluntary or enforced bath in the last six years. He is to enjoy a long deferred swim.

During his stay at the poorhouse Jackson never has dabbled in any water more than could be held in a small basin, but the past week the selection received a respectful petition from him requesting that facilities be afforded for at least one more bath before he died.

Much excitement was caused by the receipt of this extraordinary petition, and, after long wrangling, arrangements were agreed to by the solons.

Would Have Real Utility. Champ Clark proposes an inquiry to determine the direct and incidental cost to the United States of all the wars waged since 1776. Among the many ways in which such figures would have utility would be in affording instructive comparisons between expenses on a war footing and expenses on a peace footing under standard control.

SCIENTIFIC REST IS NEEDED

Well-Known Medical Man Says That One Should Let His Body Wander—Learn to Do Nothing.

Chicago.—Make an effort not to make an effort. Learn to do nothing and think of nothing.

There are few people who know how to rest, and this ignorance, according to a well-known medical man, accounts for much of the modern nerve strain and insanity.

"The average man," he said recently, "spends his day working, and when he comes home, instead of resting he begins to work again, and work hard."

He reads, plays cards, gardens, goes calling, is called upon, dresses and hurries off to a theater or music hall—does anything, in fact, but rest his brain and body.

"Now all these things may be done now and then beneficially, but when they are made a habit they are as fatiguing as his daily work."

"The only real rest he gets is sleeping. In other words, his brain and his body are hard at it from the time he rises in the morning until he gets into bed again at night. But the brain especially wants conscious rest."

"When the brain is working it is producing toxins just as is the case with the muscles. These toxins, or poisons, have to be cleaned out of the body by rest, and to change one's work does not do this. It only causes more toxins to be formed.

"The way to get real rest is as follows: "Sit or lie down perfectly comfortable.

"Think about nothing; do not direct your brain; let it wander.

"Do not talk about anything that requires mental effort.

"Listen to simple conversation.

"Discuss nothing that you feel strongly about, or which worries you.

"Make no plans.

"Except when a man is asleep there is a constant stream of ideas running through his mind. It is quite impossible to be awake and have an empty mind, but it is quite possible to make an effort to direct that stream. If you make no effort you will get rest. Be a mental mouluk.

"Take nothing into your mind which requires mental digestion. If your brain insists upon going on working, listen to light music, or read an easy book.

"Things to avoid are:

"Anything approximating to your salaried work.

"Clever" conversation.

"Things to make you think.

"Chess.

"Worry.

"Card games with other people.

"Difference of opinion.

"An author, whose work is imaginative, logical, such as playing patience.

"An accountant, on the other hand, whose mind will run on figures, should not play patience. He should mold figures out of clay or paint or do something artistic."

MILL HAND AS A MILLINER

London Laborer is Marvel at Making Beautiful Creations for Women—His Proudest Moment.

London.—Two mill hand who is a milliner and blouse-maker in his spare time has just come to light at Preston. His name is John Jackson, and so successful has his millinery been that he now wishes to give up weaving for it. He has many orders, coming from as far as Canada.

At his home in Hammond street, Preston, where he lives with his mother and sisters, Jackson said that his first millinery success was at a local bazaar.

"My heart is in making and doing up smart hats and blouses," he said, "and I was delighted when I won a prize for hat trimming at that bazaar."

"My proudest moment was when two bonnets and four hats of my own trimming were worn at the wedding of one of my sisters.

"I buy my own materials, flowers, ribbons, feathers, sprays, leaves, etc., and I can usually estimate the cost of trimming a hat to a farthing for a customer. I study milliners' windows for ideas. I just see what the latest fashions are and copy—or try to improve—them."

SPECIAL DIET FOR PUPILS

Miss Darracott, Teacher of Ungraded School in Indianapolis, Observes Novel Experiment.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Miss Frances Darracott, a teacher in the ungraded school for backward children, a special school conducted by the Indianapolis board of school commissioners, is at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, observing an interesting experiment in child training.

The experiment is being conducted by the department of psychology of the university and consists of a class of fifteen backward children, who are being taught by three expert teachers. In addition to regular school subjects the children are receiving instruction in gymnastics, swimming, personal hygiene and water color painting, the girls also being taught sewing and domestic science.

Blood of the children was tested when the class was opened. The children are also receiving a special diet. The class is being superintended by Miss Elizabeth Farrell, Mrs. Margaret Pfeiffer and Miss Elizabeth Walsh, all of New York City.

PYTHON IS FINICAL

Will Not Look at Anything but White Rabbits.

Black Bunions Placed in Big Reptile's Cage Are Unharmed—Zoo Store-room Full of Many Choice Things to Eat.

Chicago.—The lion house at the Lincoln park zoo has been in a turmoil the past few days because of the refusal of the python to break its fast. The python's refusal was not due to the fact that it was not hungry. It was, but, being an episode of the first order, it had to have its food as it wanted it or not at all.

Cy de Vry, head animal keeper, tempted the snake with rabbits, and when it refused to employ these as a means to stay its hunger he tried guinea pigs. They also were refused, and it was thought the python would starve itself. The problem was solved in an unexpected manner when one of De Vry's assistants told the head keeper he was going to try again to tempt the snake and was given permission to do so.

All of the rabbits used in the former meals served to the particular reptile were black and, although the man who had the snake had no intention of discriminating, as far as color was concerned, he chanced to put a white rabbit in the cage. The moment the python saw the new comer it darted toward it and gulped it down. A black rabbit was next, but it was spurned as all of its color had been burned. The problem was solved. It was white or none for the snake and its wishes were gratified.

Before the first meal for the coming season was finished the snake had done away with four pretty white bunnies, and for the time being everything is quiet about her cage. De Vry says it is the first time in all his experience that he has known a snake to discriminate in regard to the color of its food.

A story going the rounds of the zoo makes De Vry the butt of sarcastic comment by the park employes. It tells of a complaint made against him by a woman who recently visited the zoo and wrote a letter to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, saying there were live animals in the snake's body and that she wanted them to investigate it.

It is one of the peculiarities of members of the reptile family that they contract the muscles of their bodies when they are digesting food and as the snake mentioned had been fed only a short time previously the movement of its body was caused by a brave effort on its part to digest a large meal of guinea pigs. The society sent Agent Nolar to investigate the case, and when he asked De Vry if there was any truth in the statement made by the woman, De Vry told him he was privileged to enter the cage occupied by the snake and see. The agent did not enter the cage.

The other residents of the zoo are fed with the best of food, and if the citizen who finds it difficult to supply his table with enough meat and vegetables should see the show-room of the zoo he would open his eyes in amazement.

In the icebox there is always a supply of the finest beef and fish. The beef is used in feeding the lions, tigers and other large beasts. The fish is fed to the sea lions and water fowl. All of the meat is bought from a large Chicago market house and a fresh supply is brought in every morning.

In the storeroom a full line of the choicest vegetables is kept, including celery, lettuce, cabbage and potatoes. All of the smaller animals are fed from the supplies in this room, and the monkeys and lions are given a dog biscuit occasionally.

JAPS HAVE GROANING TREE

Crowds Assemble Nightly to Listen to Sounds Resembling Human Voices—Extraordinary Story.

Tokyo.—Another of the many extraordinary stories with which the vernacular newspapers fill their columns daily has just found its way into print. It is about the discovery of a tree which nightly emits sounds resembling human groans.

The account is quite circumstantial. It is to the effect that the tree is an oak, something akin to the oak, this particular specimen standing in the garden of one Mr. Ozawa, at Nishiyashiro.

The tree is several hundred years old and so large that it requires the outstretched arms of five adults completely to embrace its trunk.

In the last few years this tree has acquired the habit of groaning at night for a certain stated season, i. e., from the beginning of winter till the cuckoo begins to make herself heard. The same phenomenon has been noted this year, the ancient tree having groaned regularly every evening since early in December. Crowds are said to assemble nightly in the garden to listen to these weird and ghostly sounds.

Speaking generally, the current social craze in Japan is for the occult, the newspapers almost without exception devoting a special section to matter of this description, and more particularly to the doings of the so-called "clairvoyants," who are springing up in every direction all over the country. The craze may be expected to die a natural death like its numerous predecessors in the course of a few more months.

"RUNS" AWAY WITHOUT LEGS

Vagrant, Dreading Poor Farm, Takes to His "Heel" When Judge Gives His Sentence.

Denver, Colo.—Thomas Burke, who has lost both legs, ran away from Justice Gavin's court, where he had been brought by Officer Joseph Watson to answer to the charge of vagrancy, and has not yet been recaptured.

A standing reward of \$10 is offered by Constable Jacob Simon of the court to any one who will give information as to where the officer may find him.

It was all because Burke objected to going to the poor farm. Justice Gavin took pity on him, as the unfortunate man stumbled his way into place in the line of "vags," noted that both his legs had been cut off close to his body, and decided that what Burke needed was not punishment but refuge.

"They tell me you got drunk and can't hold yourself up and that you fall over and hurt yourself," said the court.

Burke delivered himself of an unfeeling soliloquy of excited speech which sounded much like denial.

"Yes," said the court, without understanding one word. "I think I'll send you out to the poor farm, and not to jail. The officer here says you've come to be a nuisance to people down town, and of course that must be stopped, but you can't be helped by going to jail, so the poor farm strikes me as the best solution of the problem. You sit down there in the corner, and when court is over I'll make arrangements."

Tom sat down, an dfeel—not in his usual way, but into deep thought. He didn't want to go to the poor farm. Finally the cripple awoke to the fact that the courtroom was empty, the last case having been disposed of and the magistrate gone, as Burke rightly supposed, to "fix up the poor farm deal."

A quick look out the door showed that no one in the office across the hall was looking. And then—this man with no legs at all ran away. Out of the courtroom and up the steps he went, and was out of sight in a few minutes without even a case to help him on his painful way.

The court, returning, found Burke's chair vacant. He called the cripple and failing an answer, called the constable who in turn called the deputy constable. But the man was gone and would not help to swell the population of pauper's home that day.

Every man about the court declares the laugh is on the other fellow.

PARROT DISTURBS A CLASS

Bird Becomes Decidedly Profane During Discussion of English Sparrows in Central Park.

New York.—There will be only one species of the bird family in any great numbers in the parks of the city this year, according to Donald Burns, keeper of the aviary in the Central Park menagerie. He refers to the English sparrows.

When he told his class of youngsters from the nearby Fifth avenue houses in his talk that all the best birds would be scarce than ever because of the ever-increasing number of plattal sparrows, the youngsters were inspired with a desire to go out and shoot all they could find. But it remained for Dick, the parrot who has recently celebrated his centenary, to give voice to his feelings in a most determined way.

"Well, I'll be d—d!" And when that "damn," with a big "D," came from the dignified parrot, Burns looked aghast.

"I wonder who could ha' taught him that!" exclaimed the keeper.

During the last week the window beside Dick's cage has been open, and it is believed his vocabulary was increased by some of the frequenters of the nearby benches.

MAKES A LONG ARCTIC TRIP

Man Travels Thousand Miles Over Ice and Snow in Thirty Days—Lands as Hard as a Rock.

Dawson, Alaska.—A thousand miles over the ice and snow in thirty days is the record of Colin Inkster, who has arrived in Dawson direct from Iditarod. He walked every foot of the way and landed here as hard as a rock and trim as a pugilist ready for battle.

"I did not carry a blanket or a bite to eat; nothing but a light pair of 'snow shoes,'" said Inkster, "and I got out alone the morning of Jan. 24 and came through without a mishap partner at any stage of the game."

"Roadhouses were made every night but one, and then I found a way of getting some rest. The roadhouses were twenty to thirty miles apart, averaging twenty-three miles. On stormy days I would make one roadhouse and on favorable days two.

"Some days I would mush forty-eight to fifty miles. The first day I was on the trail it was 58 below zero. The low temperature did not last long and I finished with Florida weather, with the temperature almost up to the thawing point."

Win \$10,000 Opera Prize. New York.—Horatio William Parker, professor of the theory of music at Yale university, and Brian Hooper, formerly assistant in English at Columbia and later instructor in rhetoric at Yale, were awarded the Metropolitan Grand Opera prize of \$10,000 for their opera, "Mona."

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