

[From the New York Evening Gazette, Feb. 5th.]

A STRANGE PHENOMENON.

In the city of Brooklyn has long resided a highly respectable family, well known for their social position, which if it is not one of wealth, is that of competence. —, a daughter of a widowed mother, a young lady whose amiable qualities have always endeared her to her companions and friends, and now, at the age of twenty, she has become one of the most remarkable invalids that have excited the medical faculty. About a year ago, — was thrown from a horse, and for some time suffered severely from the injuries thus received. Her case, however, at that time, called for no more than the ordinary attention due to one whose nervous and physical system had become shocked by a sudden and unexpected fall. Subsequently another injury was sustained by the unfortunate young lady, whose case is now about to command the attention of the entire world of physical and mental science.

The second injury received by the young lady was caused by having her skirt caught by a street car, through which misfortune she was dragged a considerable distance. The nature of the injuries received has never been fully determined, but it is conjectured that some injury was sustained at the base of the brain, or to the spinal column. The patient was removed to her bed, where she has remained now about twelve months, undoubtedly a great sufferer, but yet losing nothing of her youthful color and beauty.

HER APPEARANCE.

She reclines on her right side. Her right hand rests under her right ear. The forefinger and thumb of this hand can be moved at will. The left hand and arm are free, but the thumb of the left hand rigidly adheres to the palm, and is not of use in the various employments of the invalid. Her lower limbs are seriously intertwisted. The eyes are closed, and the teeth firmly set, so that food or drink cannot be conveyed to the palate. The face of the body has all the appearance of complete health, and rather increases in beauty, notwithstanding the very remarkable disease, or combination of diseases, which afflict the patient.

The other phenomena are still more remarkable, since they show that the mind, though deprived of the ordinary senses, is just as active, the feelings just as fresh, warm and playful as when the invalid was in the enjoyment of perfect health. Though without the use of her mouth, eyes or teeth—though she neither eats nor drinks, nor sleeps for weeks together, yet she lives cheerful and comparatively happy.

HOW SHE LIVES.

Is the problem for science to solve. For four months preceding last September she had not tasted food of any kind and had not slept. Since then, experiments have been made to feed her, as she has conveyed a message occasionally in these words: "I feel hungry." Food, however, when forced upon her seems to produce trances and catalepsy, and for twenty days together she has remained in a trance.

Occasionally the patient is affected by spasms. At these times the right hand is thrown rigidly out, the leg unwinds, and a convulsion takes place; but soon the limbs fly back, like springs, to their wonted places, and the mind of the sufferer becomes cheerful again. In periods of catalepsy other phenomena present themselves. Among these is the general rigidity of the body that is like marble, and she may then be placed upon the extremity of the toes and remain there immovable. These, however, are the exceptions to the general condition of the patient, who is remarkable for qualities still more interesting.

She writes to her friends and school-mates warm and affectionate letters, but she does this with her left hand. Grasping the pen with the four fingers—not using the thumb—she places the little finger parallel with the slate or paper, and usually in a beautiful Italian back-hand conveys what she has to communicate. While writing she does not use her eyes. The lids are closed.

HOW SHE READS.

Is another marvel. When a book is given to her she holds it, but it is kept closed, and she soon becomes entirely cognizant of its contents. Thus it is with letters. She reads them entirely by clairvoyance, and settles that disputed problem beyond any doubt. It will

be naturally asked if she can see everything in the room, since she thus perceives what is near her. This question is a difficult one to settle, although the facts seem to establish the negative. Recently, a very venerable physician, prompted by curiosity, called to see her. On patronizing with many kind words and calling her his "dear child," to ingratiate himself more readily, he caused her considerable annoyance. Afterwards, however, he quietly sat at a distance to observe her. It is supposed that she thought he had gone, for calling for her slate she imitated in words and otherwise the peculiar manners of the Doctor.

HER EMPLOYMENTS.

Are numerous, but those—the results of which are the most wonderful—are her paper cuttings, her embroideries and crochet work in colors. We have said that she can use the thumb and forefinger of her right hand. These hold the scissors when she cuts paper. Meanwhile the left hand is behind her head during the performance of the task. In the same way—the left hand always at the back of the head—she pursues her embroidery and crochet work in various colors, precisely as she might do if she had the use of both hands. It is quite evident that she clairvoyantly perceives everything that is near her; but beyond this, probably, her power does not extend. Still she is not deprived of occupation any more than a lady who has her eyes.

HER DISEASES.

Tetanus is one of her diseases. All the symptoms of lockjaw are hers, and she is also at times troubled with hysteria and catalepsy, but there is not science enough in the medical faculty to solve the problem and produce a cure. It is possible that under some conditions she might, by virtue of her clairvoyant power, prepare the way to her own restoration. Hitherto the family have guarded the invalid from intrusion and experiment, and though they are willing that men of science may profit by observation in her case, they are very properly unwilling to subject her to trials which may as well be avoided. Recently she has received some nourishment, but the physicians declare that it cannot be called such, although as the attempt has been made, we state the fact to prevent any charge of overdrawn this picture of human suffering.

The whole subject is important, and when the incredulous have become convinced that there is a woman living in the metropolitan circuit who has existed for four months without moving, sleeping, eating or drinking, we may add further facts of interest to aid the cause of science.

We will simply add in closing that the trance into which the patient fell commenced at Christmas, and continued for twenty days. During the time she was, to all appearance, dead; but she came to herself somewhat improved, so far as can be judged. The eminent physician in attendance on her says that she may now be considered as receiving some food, although it is his opinion that for nine months she has existed totally without nourishment. In due time he will probably give a full report of the case, upon which at present he has no opinion to offer.

MATCH-MAKING IN SWITZERLAND.

It is the general custom in Berne, says a Swiss writer, that the lover's father should play the wooer to the parents of the bride. He frequently goes to them and says: "My lad likes your daughter. I suppose you have nothing against it, and that it will suit you?" Or sometimes he goes, in more elaborate fashion, as in the case of the father who knocked one evening late at a window, begged the old people to look out, and then began: "It is God's will that my boy and your girl should come together. I have had to make up my mind to it, and so will you; but I should like to ask what dower you mean to give her—about a thousand pounds, I fancy?"

"I approve the match," returned the other party; "but I can't think of giving her more than a hundred pounds."

"You don't mean it?" said the other. "Indeed I do; not one half-penny more, and even that is too much."

"Then," replied the former, "it is not God's will that the two should come together. The Lord's purposes are unfathomable, and His ways past finding out. Good night. No offense, I hope."

"Quite the reverse," said the other, and quietly closed the window.

Dansk Læsning.

DEN 37TE AARS-KONFERENCE.

tog sin Begyndelse Lørdag Morgen den 6te April og bivaandedes af en ualmindelig Masse Hellige fra Land og By. Veiret var meget smukt og behageligt, saa at flere af Møderne holdtes i Bowery. Præsident Young fremlagde to Emner for alle Talerne at behandle, nemlig Visdomsordet og de Helliges Enhed. Det syntes at hvile tungt paa Præsident Youngs Sind at faae de Hellige til at se Nødvendigheden af Visdomsordet. Dette var en af de tidligste Aabenbaringer. Herren havde givet, men er tillige en af dem man mindst synes at bryde sig om. Denne Aabenbaring fortæller de Hellige, at det er usundt at nyde Brandevin, Tobak, Kaffe, The og varme Sager i det Hele, og den fremhæver tillige hvortil disse Artikler er bestemte. Burde ikke dette alene være en tilstrækkelig Drivfjeder for vore Sødskende at iagttage disse Forskrifter? Om Herren i sin Godhed for sine faldne Børn paa en faderlig og kærlig Maade raader dem til at afholde sig fra disse Ting, istedetfor han kunde have befaleet dem det, skal man derfor foragte det helt og holden og handle stik imod det, mange Gange mere end nogensinde før? Og nu, hvor mange Penge gaar ikke der tabt til ingen Nytte? Jeg henvender mig i denne Rubrik udelukkende til mine skandinaviske Sødskende; lad de engelske Brødre skrive for de Engelske. Erindre vi ikke hvordan vore Følelser var, da vi først kom ind i Pagten? Følte vi ikke som om vi kunde gjøre enhver Ting, Herren bad os om? Lagde ikke Drankeren sin Snaps tilside, lagde ikke Røgeren og Tyggeren sin Pibe og sin Skraa væk? Det skete med Møje og Besvær, men det lykkedes dog i en stor Grad. Det er derfor dobbelt sørgeligt og urigtigt at gjøre sig til Slave af saadanne Vaner igjen, blot for at følge andre Nationers daarlige Exempel. Skandinaverne i Utah er anset af Autoriteterne som et Folk, der i Flid, Agerbrug og Retskaffenhed staar langt over de andre Folkefærd, hvoraf dette Territoriums Befolkning bestaar; lad os ogsaa i andre Henseender erhverve os et godt Navn ved at iagttage Kirkens Forskrifter, og den Dag vil snart komme, da Engländerne og Amerikanere vil anerkjende de Danskes Værd. Beflit Eder paa Renlighed i Eders Person, Renlighed i Eders Huse, Renlighed i Eders Madlavning; o. s. v., thi det er især i denne Henseende, man bebrejder os saameget. Det koster ikke meget Umage at forbedres i dette Stykke, og kunde vi drive det saavidt, at vi kunde tage Luven fra Andre og blive et Mønster og en Kjerne midt blandt Guds Folk, hvor stolte kunde vi ikke føle os i en glad Bevidsthed. Det er vanskeligt for de Engelske at overvinde deres Nationalfølelse, men den kraftigste Protest vi kan stille derimod er vor Vandel.

Over tyve Tusind Mennesker er arbejdsløse i det østlige London, og deres Ansøgning til Dronningen om Hjælp fik et koldt Afslag.

Den berømte Reisende Dr. Livingston er bleven dræbt af Kaferne i det Indre af Sydafrika.

Der hersker for Tiden stor Frygt i Europa, da man ikke kan komme paa det Rene med Napoleons Politik. Man tror nemlig, at han har storartede Planer for, og at en ny Krig staar lige for Døren. Fra Berlin lyder Efterretningerne ikke bedre; forleden Dag sendte Kong Vilhelm Bud efter Bismark Kl: 2 om Natten, hvilket strax satte alle de større Byer i Forfærdelse.

Vinteren har været ualmindelig haard og langvarig paa Sletterne iaar, og Tusinder af Kreaturer, Heste og Svin tilhørende Poststationerne er omkomne af Kulde og Hunger.

COMMON SENSE.—The Napa Register, of March 9th, gives its views of the Chinese question in the following common sense remarks;

Our opinion remains unchanged, that the employment of Chinese labor in certain branches of business is one of the necessities of our time and State that can by no means be avoided. That the Chinese are, as a class, inferior to white laborers, is admitted on all hands, but this fact ought not to exclude them from employment in any business for which they are found to be fitted. There is labor enough in this new State for every white man in it, twice over, and for any number of Celestials besides. But so long as men, instead of going out into the country and laboring to save something, so as finally to secure homes for themselves, hang around the cities and large towns, trusting to chance jobs for a livelihood, there will be want and suffering. And when these come, self-inflicted though they are, the blame is sure to be attributed to Chinese competition.

MEDICAL QUALITIES OF PUMPKIN.—At a recent discussion in the New York Farmers' Club, a correspondent writes of the virtue of the pumpkin: "I will give you a simple, yet very valuable cure, for inflammatory rheumatism. A woman's arm was swelled to an enormous size, and painfully inflamed. A poultice was made of stewed pumpkin, which was renewed every fifteen minutes, and in a short time produced a perfect cure. The fever drawn out by the poultices made them extremely offensive as they were taken off. I knew a man cured of severe inflammation of the bowels by the same kind of application. I think such subjects as this proper for discussion in a farmer's club."

R. T. ROSS.

C. R. BARRATT

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