STRANGE CASE OF CATALEPSY.

A Protracted Trance Which Has Puzzled Medical Men and Frightened the Sleeper.

A strange case of catalepsy is puzzling the physicians at the Central Insane Asylum at Columbus, O. Matthew Branagan, a patient who was sent to the institution a year ago from Steubenville, has just recovered from a prolonged trance, or suspension of all the faculties except the organ that keeps the last spark of life from going out. Prior to becoming insane Branagan was a glass-blower. Soon after being placed in the asylum his condition assumed a dreamy state, and he slept much of the time. December 3rd last the catalptic symptoms first became marked, and he went into a trance. From that time until a few days ago he never spoke a word, never opened his eyes and never ate a particle of food. At times he stopped breathing, and was in every way a corpse except that his hand remained warm and his muscles did not become rigid.

Respiration was revived by artificial means a number of times after he had been practically given up for dead. He was fed through the nostrils by the use of a tube. Night and morning the attendant who was detailed to care for the case would pour milk, the white of eggs and other liquid refreshments into a tube in order to keep Branagan alive. If the attendant had Branagan upon the bed in a certain position the patient would never stir until the attendant returned, even if many hours elapsed. If the attendant placed Branagan's hand it would remain clinched until straightened out by the attendant, no matter how long it was left untouched. He would not walk unless pushed along. If, in setting him down, one leg strikes out horizontally, he would not lower the number until some one took hold of it and pulled it down.

A few days ago Branagan showed signs of recovery, and subsequently astonished his attendants by obeying an order to put on his clothes. He is now convalescent, and at their weekly asylum ball a few nights since, says the Cincinnati Enquirer, glided about with the best of them. He talks about his former condition and says he was perfectly conscious during the entire period of the trance.

At times he became very hungry, he says, before the attendants would come to him with the tube, but he was powerless to tell anyone by word or sign that he wanted food. He tells of many things that occurred when he was supposed to be unconscious and pictures a horrible fear he had of being mistaken for dead and buried alive.

Utah Mineral Specimens.

Not long since William Newton of this city forwarded to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D. C., some valuable mineral specimens. In response thereto Mr. Newton has received the following letter of acknowledgement:

"The Smithsonian Institution, on behalf of the United States national museum, returns a grateful acknowledgement to Mr. William Newton, care of Henry Wagner, Salt Lake City, Utah, for the gift of specimens of block tin from the Newton American tin mines, Utah, and a lithographic stone from the Newton American Lithographic Stone company."

It is Secretary Benton Now.

The directors of the Chamber of Commerce met on Monday evening and as foreshadowed in the NEWS about a week ago elected I. A. Benton as secretary of the Chamber to succeed S. W. Sears resigned. The election was unanimous, all other candidates withdrawing in favor of Mr. Benton.

Jones's Franchise.

After long and tiresome discussion at the county court meeting on Monday afternoon, R. M. Jones's franchise was granted, allowing him to erect poles and wires and do other necessary work to transmit electricity into the city from Big Cottonwood canyon. The franchise provides that Mr. Jones shall furnish the necessary current for incandescent lights in the county's hall of the joint city and county building in such numbers and places as may be desired, free of charge during the life of the franchise, and that he shall furnish power to the county for its own purposes at the rate of $20 per horse-power per year for twenty-four hours' service per day.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

(Regular Correspondence.)

WASHINGTON, June 30, 1893.—Never has the financial situation been more mixed of the action of the next Congress more difficult to predict with any reasonable degree of certainty than at this writing. Congressmen are quite numerous in Washington and ever since the news of the cessation of the free coinage of silver in India was received silver and its probable fate has monopolized their conversation, all those of them who are willing to attempt to say what will be done, and only a few of them are so wide apart in their ideas that the amount of real information gained from them is insignificant. The simple standard silver men claim will pay, with confidence that the action of India is the final crow which has broken the silver camel's back and that the days of silver as a money-metal are absolutely numbered. The silver men will tell you with equal confidence that "the English conspiracy" to force the United States into adopting the single gold standard will result in securing a national ownership that will compel Congress to coin silver. There you have the extremes of Congressional sentiment. The conservative element points to wait and observe the results of India's change of policy before seeking upon the effect it will have upon the financial legislation of Congress.

Yet pressure has this week been brought to bear upon Mr. Cleveland to call the extra session of Congress for July instead of September, and a number of the extreme silver men have expressed the belief that the extra session will be called before the end of the week, in order to keep Congress from adjourning before the Sherman law, which shows that the uncertainty is felt at the White House as well as outside.

Meanwhile the free coinage men have opened Republican fires and say that they intend to make the battle fight over more for silver in Congress, and they are promoting an agitation of political lines and a reformation of parties, so favoring free gold and silver money and the other gold only.

Further than to express the belief that it will aid in getting the Sherman silver law repealed no member of the administration has expressed an opinion in public as to the probable effect of the war spent silver in India upon our finances, but bankers and others now express fear that it will create an enormous demand for gold in India and that the gold being easier to get here than in Europe we will have to supply the demand.

The Washington G. A. R. posts will be largely represented at the Gettysburg reunion, which is to begin tomorrow and last three days. Although the reunion is under the auspices of the New York posts, and will be largely devoted to dedicating the New York monuments on the battle field in memory of the soldiers of that state who were engaged in all the battles, the Washington posts will be in the line of march and will be the guests of the New York posts while in the city.

Preparations are being made here for a big celebration of the anniversary of the injury of the cornerstone of the capitol building, on the 15th of next September. President Cleveland has promised to make the speech instead of the principal orator, who is yet to be chosen. The name of ex-President Harrison has been suggested.

Secretary Hoke Smith has this week, upon the recommendation of Commissioner Lochren, approved the dropping from the roll of a number of pensioners declared by the examining committee not to be entitled to pensions.

This week the collector of customs at Portland, Oregon, was removed from office by telegraph, because of the report by special treasury agents of his intention to illegally admit a lot of Chinese coolies. He is charged with having allowed 250 Chinese claiming to be merchants to land on June 15th contrary to official instructions from the treasury. He was removed several weeks ago, but as is customary continues to perform the duties of his office, awaiting the qualification of his successor. The telegram dismissing him directed him to turn his office over to the deputy collector. It is claimed that the smuggling of opium as well as Chinese through the port of Portland has been increasing so rapidly that the treasury officials become convinced that it was connived at by United States officers whose duty it was to prevent it, so there is some talk about sensational criminal prosecutions in the near future.

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