

True Story of the Terrors of The Life of a Drug Slave

THE news columns, some days ago, told of a man who cut his throat in a patrol wagon on the way to the central police station. He was taken to Lakeside hospital, and there, eventually, he died. His wife was called to the coroner's office. She was Mrs. Emma Short, 214 Lakeside avenue.

She sat dry eyed, a youthful, pale-faced woman in black. Her eyes seemed to vision things far back in the past years. It was as if she did not see the recording stenographer who sat at a typewriter in front of the witness. The woman with the pale face gazed off into the dimly lighted corners of the silent, empty room.

She seemed to hear but didn't answer the questions asked her, as if the questions were far away. She spoke in a monotone, as if the things of which she spoke were of no longer vital interest to her. Her manner was that of a woman who has suffered so much that suffering has become a common place and no longer a thing of interest. The story she told makes the news tale of a man who cut his throat in a patrol wagon fade into common place. It was the story of a woman who was for eight years the wife of an opium fiend. It was a story from life that shows the horrors of drugs as they are stripped of all false colors that might seem picturesque. Between the lines you see what opium and other drugs did for Frank A. Short, their appetite bound slave.

In the days when you get some glimpse, at times, of the life of the drug fiend. You read of efforts to stop unlawful sale of drugs, and the prosecution of druggists who violate the law. You read of opium sold in Chinese hotels at 25 cents for a gummy slab on the back of a playing card, read of evasions of the law by which cocaine is sold as starch or cur.

NO JOYS—ONLY NIGHTMARE.
These give a glimpse of the steel bands of habit that hold the slaves of the drugs for which they give up every hope. They live long in a death white nightmare. It is not often, as here, that the end of the nightmare is reached.

It was no dread specter that haunted Short and drove him on to suicide. It was no rosy hued siren of drug dreams that led him through golden fields to the end of the road. The drug—landium, morphine, opium, chloral had tried them all robbed him one by one of every natural joy and interest in life. They robbed him of interest in work in his children. The gray white pall blotted out one interest after another. He had never found in the drugs the delicious measure of which men have written. He did, for a time, find a certain satisfaction in them that closed his eyes to the dry fog that had settled over every other interest. Then, suddenly, the pall closed in on that one satisfaction left to him. The drug had lost its power.

HAD LOST EVERY INTEREST.
Every interest was gone. Day meant nothing. Night meant nothing. He saw the smiles of his children. He realized that he had loved them. Now their smiles meant nothing. The gray pall had closed him in at last. He was dead, dead without the peace of sleep, while yet his eyes saw, his heart beat, his lungs drew in the air and his muscles carried him about.

The woman with the pale face and faraway gaze sat in the witness chair. The story went on in monotone. Her husband had been a carpenter. He had been good to her. He loved her, and she loved him. Yes, they were happy. They lived in a village down the state.

TOOK "DOPE" AS A MEDICINE.
He drank yet he was good to her. His drinking resulted in a sort of cramps. When he had them a physician gave him laudanum to relieve the pain. Doctors told him that if he did not stop drinking he would soon die. He stopped. He did not find it difficult.

The gray white pall was closing in on him. Three times in a week he

Soon any appetite he had for drink was gone, no more the cramps. The drug habit remained. He took more and more. Yet it was a year longer before his wife saw his predicament. She knew he was a drug fiend who must have his drug to live.

They had moved to Toledo, a little of laudanum would just shoot only a day or two. A druggist told him if he must have the drug, to take it in the form of opium. He did. He bought it by the box. It was dark and gummy like thick molasses. He swallowed the stuff by the teaspoonful washed down with water.

NO PLEASANT DREAMS.

You have read of opium smokers and their dreams. Short did not take the drug for dreams. If he had dreams that by any fancy could be called beautiful, he gave no evidence of it. He did not take opium because he enjoyed its effect, like other drug fiends, he took it because he was a drug fiend, and a craving demanded it.

His wife prayed with him to stop the habit. He had tried that before she knew he was slave to the drug. Now he tried again, and harder. His attempts were like the struggles of a child weighed down by chains. When he persisted he fell over in the street and was brought home begging for the drug he could not do without.

NO FOOD—ONLY THE DRUG.

They moved to Cleveland. Short's appetite for food was gone. He was living on the drug. Sometimes his face would be bloated in awful simulating of a death-like enervation.

When he had the drug within him he would have a few minutes of dazed animation. Then he would sink off into a state like sleep, in which he lay motionless with closed eyes and heard all that went on about him. He worked irregularly. He would lose his tools and forget in the middle of a job what it was he had started to do.

SUICIDE BECKONS TO HIM.

At times, as life became more and more horrible to him, he talked of killing himself. Time after time his wife saved him from self-destruction. He threatened to kill her. She would wake in the night to find him sitting up, staring at her.

"What are you thinking?" she would ask him.
"I can't understand what I go through," he would answer. He attempted no other explanation. At first he took it secretly. Later he would swallow it without regard to who might be about. With for the good opinion of his fellows was one of the things he had lost. When he had no money his wife gave him from her own earnings to buy opium. Toward the last he seldom did have money of his own.

His threats and his attempts at suicide increased in number. The wife had him sent to the workhouse. Before he had served his full term she paid his fine and brought him out. They had given him the cure. She told him that if he went back to the drug she would leave him.

MORPHINE AND CHLORAL.

How long he was without drugs she does not know. It was months afterward that she found he was taking morphine. Before he went to the workhouse, he had asked her to mix cornstarch with the opium gum without his knowledge in a weak attempt to fool his craving for the drug. Now she said nothing, but mixed cornstarch with the morphine. He took chloral now as well as morphine. Either his constitution was breaking down, or these drugs were worse than opium. His feeble grip on life was slipping away rapidly.

THE PALL DRAWS CLOSER.

The gray white pall was closing in on him. Three times in a week he

made some attempts on his life. His efforts were without strength. Blank and as unbearable as was his life, death seemed to be without promise. He had lost even desire for death.

The last day he followed his wife about as a child follows his mother. He followed her upstairs, then down again. "Can't you let me out of your sight?" she asked.

"I think," he answered without interest—"I think I'll end it all now."

He drew a knife from his pocket and moved toward her. She escaped to her own room and locked the door between the neighbors called the police. The police put him in the patrol wagon. That is all. He cut his throat. He said nothing, but cut his throat—Gen. H. Davis in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

CURIOSITIES OF THE JEWISH CALENDAR

There has always existed a certain amount of doubt among the believers in the truth of the Bible, concerning the great age of which the Jewish patriarchs are reported as having lived. The probability of selecting these long periods to something near the allotted span has often occupied the attention of students, and some of the theories which have been advanced are dealt with in the current issue of the Jewish World.

It is surmised that in the earliest times the moon was used for reckoning time, counting by months, however, must have grown cumbersome, and a longer division became absolutely necessary. There is a theory that for first years were composed of five months of thirty days each, the limit of five being derived from the fingers of one hand. It is also contended that before the five-months' year there was a one-month year; in other words, that a month, the period of a moon cycle, was termed a year. An endeavor has been made to prove this by working out the great ages of the first men in the Bible.

Thus Adam's 930 years of life, calculated at 29½ days, the period of a "lunation," a year, works out at 73½ years, which must strike many people as a reasonable period of existence. By this reckoning, the age of Methuselah from his famous record, for his 969 reported years are whittled down to 78½. Poor Methuselah thus became quite rejuvenated, a veritable "boy" again.

Excuse for this rearrangement is found in the psalmist's life of three score and ten years; and it is maintained that between the times of Noah and David no such extraordinary change could have taken place as to reduce the life of man by eleven-twelfths.

The next stage in the marking of time is supposed to have been the discovery of the equinoxes in spring and autumn, when day and night were exactly of the same length. This would give five months of thirty days each in this basis of a year of 150 days. Abraham's 175 years work out at 72 and Isaac's 180 at 74. The 12 months' year began with the Egyptians, who saw that a complete year was made up of the two "years," in one of which the days were longer than the nights, and in the other the nights longer than the days—London Tit-Bits.

BY HEAVEN, NOT BY HAND.

A woman who is fairly prominent in Philadelphia social circles is blessed, if it is a blessing, with a very high and vivid color which, when she has been walking fast, looks almost as though it were artificial. One day she had walked briskly down Chestnut street, and her cheeks were very red. Two workmen were painting the front of one of the stores, and as she passed one of them said loudly enough for the words to reach her ears:

"Painted, by heaven!"

"Yes, exactly," said the lady calmly. "Painted, and by heaven."

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NEXT WEEK IN HISTORY.

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|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| OCTOBER 31.
1755—John Adams, second president of the United States, born; died 1826.
1873—The Cuban filibustering steamer <i>Virginius</i> captured by the Spaniards.
1873—General Joseph Hooker, noted Civil war leader, died; born 1814.
1900—The state department made public the Indemnity by the United States of the Anglo-German agreement to preserve the integrity of China and maintain the "open door." | NOVEMBER 1.
1765—Stephen Van Rensselaer, patriot, statesman and general, born; died 1829.
1791—Lydia Huntley Sigourney, authoress, born; died 1865.
1828—Joseph Hopkins, "war governor," noted musical composer, died; born 1829. | NOVEMBER 2.
1892—Lieutenant Frederick G. Schwatka, soldier and Arctic explorer, died; born 1819. Schwatka's most noted achievement was his successful search for the lost Sir John Franklin party.
1903—The United States formally recognized and entered into relations with the new republic of Panama. | NOVEMBER 3.
1794—William Cullen Bryant, editor, born; died 1878.
1905—William H. Taft elected president. | NOVEMBER 4.
1816—Stephen Johnson Field, associate justice of the United States supreme court, born; died 1899.
1862—George Peabody, noted philanthropist, died; born 1795.
1895—Eugene Field, journalist and verse writer, died; born 1850.
1908—Thomas Estrada Palma, president of Cuba, died at Santiago; born 1826. | NOVEMBER 5.
1779—Washington Allston, noted painter, born in Waccamaw, S. C.; died 1843.
1816—Alonso Taft, jurist and diplomat, father of President Taft, born; died 1891.
1818—Benjamin Franklin Butler, citizen general and statesman, born; died 1893.
1905—William T. Richards, famous marine artist, died; born 1832. | NOVEMBER 6.
1816—Gouverneur Morris, Revolutionary statesman, died; born 1752.
1890—Abraham Lincoln elected president, first term.
1892—Admiral Charles Stewart, celebrated naval commander, died; born 1778.
1899—William McKinley re-elected president. |
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REAL BLACK DIAMONDS.

They Are the Most Unique Mineral Products of the World.

THE term "black diamond" is sometimes jokingly applied to ordinary coal which we burn in our furnaces, but the real "black diamonds" of commerce are among the most unique mineral products of the world, and they serve a purpose in the industrial world that makes them of great value. The black diamonds are pure carbon, and yet in no outward appearance resemble the diamonds which we are accustomed to wear as ornaments. They are slightly harder than the crystal of gem diamonds, and, in fact, about the hardest substance known.

Black diamonds or carbon are among the greatest curiosities of the mineral kingdom. They are without crystalline form, and are found in irregular pieces, ranging in size from half a cent up to three, four and five hundred carats. They are dark gray, black or brownish in color and opaque. The real diamond of the jewelry trade is also pure carbon, but translucent and crystalline in form. Two objects so alike in composition could not be found so opposite in appearance as these two forms of carbon.

Another peculiar thing about the black diamonds is that they are found only in one locality in the world. They come from a very small section in Brazil, not more than 25 miles square in area. Outside of this limited territory no pure black diamonds have ever been found. In the Brazilian black diamond fields the natives dig in the river beds for them, and recover them from the gravel and washings of the rivers.

What peculiar freak of nature caused the deposition of the black diamonds in this section of the world and nowhere else is one of the mysteries which science has failed to explain. None of them has been found in the great Kilmorynne diamond region, where the crystal form of diamonds have for so long been mined, and likewise no fine specimens of the gem diamond have been

found in the Brazilian black-diamond fields. The whole origin of the black diamond is, therefore, a scientific enigma. Naturally the question is raised: "Of what use is a black diamond?" No one would care to wear one of these diamonds, which resembles a piece of coal more than a real diamond, and so far as one has popularized the black gem as the black pearl has been. Nevertheless, the black diamonds serve a most important and useful function in the industrial world.

The pure black carbon is not only harder than the real diamond, but tougher and not so brittle as the gem. Consequently it is of great value for many mechanical purposes, and particularly for boring with diamond drills. In diamond drilling the tips of the drills are studded with carbon or black diamonds, and when the bores are deep the pressure is so great that the gem diamonds would be crushed in the process. But the carbon resists this continued pressure, and slowly eats down into the rocks.

In diamond drill work the carbon is set in circular pieces of soft steel or iron, called bits, and these bits are attached to tubing. Armed with these black-diamond teeth the drill pushes their way down under severe pressure to a depth of 5,000 and 6,000 feet, cutting through the hardest kind of rock. Some black diamonds are much harder than others, and there is no way to determine by the color the difference in the degree of toughness.

Black diamonds or pure carbon are not by any means cheap, and the owners of the mines in Brazil where they are gathered are making a good thing out of their monopoly. In the last 25 years the price of black diamonds have advanced from \$15 to nearly \$85 a carat, and the tendency is still upward. The mining of a drill with diamond points is thus a rather expensive matter. Usually a set of eight stones are placed in the head of a single drill. If each diamond weighs only three and a half carats, the total cost at \$85 per carat would be about \$233 for a single

Great as this expense is, however, it pays, for the black diamonds are so tough that they last a long time, and they achieve results which could not be obtained in any other way. There is no known substance that can take the place of carbon in drills in boring for



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|--|--|
| EYE Weak and Sore Eyes, Granular Ulcers. | STOMACH Neuritis, Ulceration and Acid, Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Pain and Fullness after Eating, Heartburn, Gas, Bloating and difficulty in swallowing. |
| EAR Catarrhal Deafness, Noise in the Ear, Suppurating Ears, Polyp, Discharge, Foreign Bodies, such as hardened wax, etc. | KIDNEYS Inflammation of the Kidneys, Gravel, Stone—all scientifically and successfully treated. |
| NOSE Catarrhal Inflammation, Hay Fever, Abscess of the Septum, Adenoid Growths, Nasal Polyp, Thickening of the Membrane—restore the sense of smell. | LIVER, SPLEEN All diseases of the Liver, Spleen, Gallbladder, all Rheumatic Disorders, Rheumatism and all Skin Diseases, Eczema, Salt Rheum, Ringworm, Stiff Joints, Spinal Irritation. |
| THROAT Catarrhal Sore Throat, Pharyngitis, Enlarged Tonsils and Palate, Hoarseness, Loss of Voice, Phlegm in the throat, causing hacking, and Hay Fever. | RUPTURE Piles, Fistula and all new cured Swellings and Tenderness without pain or detention from business. |
| LUNGS Consumption in the first stages, Hemorrhages, Dry and Chronic Bronchitis, Cough, Croup, Pains in the Chest, Asthma, Hay Fever, Hysteria, Asthma, etc. | Heart, Brain & Nerves Such as Suffocating Feeling, Palpitation, Fear of impending Danger. |
| HEAD Neuralgia, Sick Nerves or Congestive Headache, Dull, Full Feeling, Dizziness, Tumors and Eczema of Scalp. | Blood & Skin Diseases Blood Poison in its different stages; Scrofula, Tumors, Tetters, Eczema, etc. |

gold, silver, copper, and other mineral deposits. Before the black diamonds of Brazil were discovered, it was impossible to make borings.

When the carbon was first introduced in our industries it was used in diamond saws for cutting stones, marble and similar substances. Then the price advanced so that the carbon was found too costly for such use, and it was substituted for stone cutting. But it is really an imperfect crystal or gem diamond, but it is too brittle for use in drills. Consequently, borings have taken the place of black diamonds for stone cutting, and the latter have been drilled almost entirely to diamond drilling purposes.

The average size of black diamonds used in the drills ranges from two to five carats, but the large specimens give much better results. They cost more, but they last longer. Consequently, there is a greater demand for the larger pieces of pure carbon, and the price is sometimes run up to prohibitive figures for unusual specimens. The fear that the supply of black diamonds may some day give out and paralyze the diamond drilling industry has stimulated prospectors to systematic search for new deposits, but so far they have not been successful. On the other hand, scientists have been making a close study of the chemical conditions which have produced the black diamonds, but their manufacture is apparently about as difficult as the making of the gem diamonds. It is possible under certain conditions to make either, but not in sizes sufficient to be of any commercial value. Nature in some peculiar way has made these rare products, and then thrown the secret of their making away. If any man can ever unlock or find that secret he may cause a panic in the diamond trade—Scientific American.

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