

INSANITY AND BUSINESS

Desire for Speed a Mania With Some People.

FREAKS OF THE MIND

Many Insane Men Conducting Large Enterprises—One Woman Sane on All Subjects Except Water—Effects of Modern Life—The Speed Mania of Automobilists.

"Insanity," said Dr. John D. Quackenbush, a recognized authority on brain diseases and especially on abnormal mental manifestations, "implies a brain defect which shows itself in discordant language or conduct. The causes of insanity may be hereditary taint, or the strain on the brain or nervous system due to grief, worry, disappointed love, fright, shock, injuries, excesses, poison, drugs or alcohol. Alcohol is said to be the most prolific cause of insanity, for it causes about 20 per cent of all cases in the insane hospitals.

"There is much in the life of today which contributes to insanity, for now the human brain is undergoing a strain which it has never intended that it should meet. Bad air, bad food, are large factors. Much of the food which we obtain has been robbed of its elements by adulteration. The flat life, the noise, the dust in the air, the strain on the eyes from electric lights, which finds a reflex action on the nervous system—all these things make the nerve cells unstable and lower the nerve tone. The year and rush of modern life has increased that in order to meet their working days to four or five a week and seek repose and mental refreshment on farms or in other quiet places outside the metropolis.

"Among the symptoms of insanity usually given are slowness and difficulty in thought processes, peculiar restlessness, insomnia and fixed delusions. One of the most common delusions in this age is that of persecution, which fills the sufferer from it with the idea that all the world is plotting against him. Another is the delusion of grandeur, manifest in self-exaltation, in a desire to become a Lorenzo the Magnificent, and an uncontrollable tendency for extravagant expenditure. Meaningless extravagance is nearly always associated with a tendency to insanity. William E. Gladstone furnished examples of this in his later years when his splendid powers were undergoing decay.

"I happened to be travelling in the same railroad carriage with him only a few months before his death and had an opportunity of observing some of those symptoms. He went to a store in Edinburgh, I recollect, and purchased a hat which he said suited him so well that he ordered fifty more like it to be sent to his hotel. They were sent back by Mrs. Gladstone.

"Loquacity and continued chattering on unimportant subjects, which have no apparent connection, are frequently observed in the earlier stages of insanity.

"Delusions are not confined to the insane, however, for the sane may have them as well. The person who is still of sound mind is able to recognize that his delusion is unreal, while the lunatic lives it. The creations of his disordered brain take such possession of him that he gradually shut out all other impressions which come to him from the outside world. Yet there are many men in active work who on some subjects are insane, for their delusions have become fixed.

"Restlessness, insomnia, mental disturbance indicate insanity. If the interpretation of the symptoms were applied many a man who goes through the country in an automobile at a mile a minute, more or less, would be locked up as stark mad. It was only a few months ago that an automobilist dashed through the large towns of Massachusetts in search of a record.

"I know," said he, "that they will have gates down at Springfield, but I'll go around that town, I will. I know a way where, if I do run down anybody, I won't have to stop."

"Insane restlessness. Yet he was the director of a great business enterprise, and when seated at his desk was the same of orderly perfection. Speed mania is a form of the restless activity, the desire for motion and rapid change that accompanies insanity.

"I have in mind a woman who owns and manages three large laundries who believes that she is a human telephone and that from time to time persons are talking through her brain, to her great inconvenience. I know another woman who believes that a relative in a distant part of the world is sending emissaries to this city who are constantly poisoning the whole Croton watershed in order to kill her and her children. Yet in other respects she is entirely normal."

If the chattering test or that of loquacity were generally employed the asylums of the country would be filled with loquacious captains of industry and financiers who on some subjects cannot be restrained from continual conversation.

A man should advertise as he would court a maiden—boldly and audaciously, yet judiciously and honorably, without the least stringency in his selection of words.

HABITS OF A SINGING WELL.

Texas Hole in the Ground a Musical Instrument.

Near Weideman's, Texas, is an abandoned well, about sixty feet deep, and overgrown with vegetation, which, states an official of the Government, is noted in the neighborhood for its musical powers.

In fine weather, particularly with a western wind, it gives forth a sound like that of an Aeolian harp, swelling and dying away by turns. When there is a heavy northerly wind blowing, the water rises within a few feet of the top, and strange noises, which some persons think resemble moans, issue from the old well.

An attempt to fill up the well a few years ago failed, apparently because of the existence of a subterranean cavity which swallowed up the dirt as fast as it was dumped in.

Distance of the Dog Star.

An eminent astronomer at Washington, whose measures of the parallaxes of the stars, by means of which their distances can be calculated, are among the most accurate known, has recently deduced anew the results of his observations of Sirius, the dog-star, which is the brightest in the heavens. This scientist thinks we may now regard its parallax as satisfactorily determined at 0.37 of a second of an arc. This makes the distance of Sirius in miles 51,000,000,000,000. In other words, the dog-star is nearly five hundred and fifty thousand times farther from the earth than the sun is.

What "To Don Delgo" Means.

"To Don Delgo" was at one time a way of saying to cheat. Steele speaks of a man as looking as if he had been "Don Delgo'd to the tune of a thousand pounds;" and in 1697 Webster wrote that "a Dondego is a kind of Spanish stockfish, or poor John." It was really a general term for a Spaniard, Diego being St. James the national saint of Spain. But exactly how the expression got its peculiar uncomplimentary sense does not appear in modern times, of course, a "Dago," in the mouths of sailors and others, means anybody from a Mediterranean country.

Rewards of Literature.

Mrs. Henry Ward got for "Helbeck of Bannisdale" the name's enough \$75,000. Barrie got for "The Little Minister," book and play, \$250,000. Hall Caine got for the book and play of "The Christian," \$150,000. Mrs. Grant was paid for her husband's autobiography \$350,000. Nansen got \$50,000 for his "Farthest North." Sir Walter Scott got \$90,000 for his "Life of Napoleon," Huskain, for "Modern Painters," got \$50,000.

Mexican War Veterans.

Nathan Hawk, a veteran of the Mexican War and the man who, in 1848, first brought East news of the California gold discoveries, is a hale and hearty citizen of Pocono, Cal. Mr. Hawk, who is eighty-two years old, left his Iowa home for California in 1847. He lives a few miles from the spot where James Marshall dug up the first gold found in the State.

Among Britain's Resources.

The island of Zanzibar has been under British protection since November 4, 1890. It is the first storehouse and distributing center for trade of the whole East African coast, although with the development of the resources of the mainland and increased shipping facilities of the several mainland ports its relative commercial importance is not so great as in former years.

Healing by Proxy.

When Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia is ill his indisposition deprives his people of their great physician. For certain forms of illness they go to him personally if possible, or send a proxy. He "touches" them for their ailments and straightway they recover, it is said. At any rate, having thought themselves ill, they now believe themselves cured.

Reward of Service.

On the occasion of the last birthday anniversary of the King of Italy a letter-carrier was remembered with an increase of pay. The man, whose name is Domenico Sicilia, has been in the service at Rogliano for the last sixty years, is eighty years old, blind, and still attends to his duties, with the assistance of a grandchild.

Expressing His Thanks.

A Korean who was appointed tax collector by the late Minister Yi Ku-natuk has determined out of gratitude for this great favor to repair the minister's summer house at considerable expense.

A Change of Names.

Columbia University was chartered as King's College in 1754. The name was changed to Columbia College in 1784 and Columbia University in 1896.

Aromatic Oil from Celery.

A strong aromatic oil, used for flavoring purposes, is being distilled from the green leaves of the celery plant. One pound of oil is produced from 100 pounds of leaves.

Strength of Eyes.

Light-colored eyes will stand the greatest strain on the sight. Light blue eyes are generally most powerful, and next to those are gray.

SOME QUEER SCHOOLS.

For Policemen, Nursemaids, Grave Diggers, Judges and Croupiers.

There are some very strange educational establishments open at the present day. A school for cash boys was opened some time ago, says the Boston Transcript.

According to a prospectus pupils, who must not be under fourteen years of age, are taught arithmetic in every day use, bookkeeping, penmanship and the quick handling and counting of money. Many of the boys who have attended the school are now earning good wages as cashiers in some of the largest stores in New York and Chicago.

It is proposed to open in London a school for nursemaids, where girls over sixteen years of age may be given lessons in the management of linens, preparing of children's food, plain sewing and laundry work and the half-purten system of education.

Such an institution already exists in Berlin. It was founded by a young man and is in connection with a founding hospital. The growing girls of this establishment are taught to become competent housemaids, and positions are found for them in the houses of the best families in Germany.

Russia possesses a school for policemen, where young men are trained for the force. The school is situated in St. Petersburg, and it is a museum connected thereto the pupils make themselves familiar with pliers, drills, chisels and other tools used by professional thieves. A particular branch of the school is the Russian passport system, which every budding policeman has to study in detail.

A remarkable educational establishment is the school for Judges opened recently in Paris. Here make the provision of well known accounts. The whole procedure, from the issuing of a warrant for arrest to the summing up and the Judge's verdict, is carried through in a business-like manner.

At Monte Carlo there is a school of croupiers. It is held during the six summer months in the club room of the Tir aux Pigeons and the Salle d'Esime in the Casino building.

There are tables similar to those in the Casino gaming room, and each pupil in turn takes the role of croupier, while others perorate players and stake money over a table. At a given instant the croupier must be ready to calculate and pay out the winning stakes.

There are usually between forty and fifty pupils in this school, and a six months course is generally sufficient to turn them into finished croupiers.

A very odd educational establishment is the school for grave diggers in Belgium. It was founded by the directors of the Great Ever Cemetery, and all candidates for posts as sextons in Belgium must undergo training in the school and pass an examination.

Most Modern Salt Plant.

Thirteen hundred barrels every twenty-four hours of fine salt—mined, purified and crystallized packed ready for the table without the touch of a hand—this is the last achievement in salt making, the final round in reduced cost of production, says the Technical World.

In the city of Saginaw there has been completed and put in operation the most modern salt plant in America. The rock salt is mined and brought to the surface in the form of brine, through wells nearly 800 feet deep. This brine is pumped into a tank and filtered and run into settling tanks. From there it is drawn off into grainers, where the salt crystallizes.

These grainers are made of solid concrete, and are much better than the old wooden tanks. Steam exhaust pipes pass through the grainers, which heat the brine to such a temperature that crystallization begins. This is a most interesting action. Watching the steaming surface of the brine, a pellicle of salt forms, which soon breaks and sinks down, to be followed by another, and the crystallization then proceeds rapidly. It is a fact that the estimated capacity of each grainer, of 100 barrels every twenty-four hours, is being greatly exceeded, and more than 130 barrels are being made.

"No such fast salt making was ever known before," said a salt maker. "It beats all how the crystals form on the bottom and sides of the grainer. I never saw anything like it, and I have been making salt—and good salt, too—for twenty-five years."

No Cause for Concern.

The Welsh Fusiliers, British army, were worried by a false report that their "flash" was to be taken from them. The flash is a knot of black ribbon, worn at the back of the collar by that regiment only, and is the last surviving of the old pictorial, the soldier trying the end of it in black silk in order to keep the hair powder and grease off his tunic.

An Honest City.

Referring to the recent theft of a statue from the Louvre, Paris, London Punch remarks: "Some cities seem to have all the luck. Nobody ever steals our statues."

Imported Sheep in France.

In France land and grass are usual too valuable to be given over to sheep grazing, hence most of the sheep consumed are imported. Algiens supplies over a million a year.

EASTER EGG TOYS.

Some Funny Things Which May Be Made of Shells.

The torpedo boat that floats is sure to please the children. Blow out the contents of an egg by making a pin-hole in both ends and blowing steadily in one. Make a hole in the middle of the side of an egg and pour in melted sealing wax and lead. Paint a row of portholes around the egg and glide on a bow and a stern cut from a cigar box or a shingle. The smokestack is made of black cardboard and the railing of wooden toothpicks glued on a circle of cardboard, which slips over the smokestack and is kept in place with a touch of glue. The American flag flies from a toothpick. If a needle is put into the bow, the boat can be drawn through the water by a magnetic net.

A more peaceable toy is the duck. Weight the shell and paint it to represent a duck. Cut head and tail of pasteboard, and after gluing firmly to the shell paint in colors.

For the little girl's doll house an egg shell cradle can be made. If the maker is skilled, it can be cut in one piece from the egg. Pasteboard rockers are glued on, and the cradle can be fitted with thin mattress, pillow and spread. A penny doll, clad in its nightgown, should repose beneath the covers.

A Chippman penwiper is made by painting the face on an egg and by pasting on the back of the head a small round piece of brown muslin, through the center of which have been run three long strands of black cord. These, when braided, form the pigtail. St. Louis Post Dispatch.

EASTER AT BETHLEHEM.

Picturesque Services of the Pious Moravians of Pennsylvania.

Easter is celebrated in a very quaint manner among the Moravians dwelling in the United States of America. On Good Friday, in the afternoon, is held a crucifixion service. This solemn feature is made more realistic by the tolling of the great bell in the belfry of the church three times at 3 o'clock, indicative of the hour at which Christ was crucified.

About 2 o'clock on Easter Sunday morning the trombone choir starts out on a tour of the town. At each street corner quaint old German chorals are played. The object is to awaken the people and to inform them that it is time to be on their way to attend the early resurrection services in the church.

The Moravian church at Bethlehem, Pa., at the time of its erection in 1803 was the largest church in America. The services are started by the trombone choir, stationed in the belfry. They play several selections, and then the church services begin. These consist of reading a brief litany and songs and last half an hour. The remaining part of the service takes place in the cemetery which adjoins the church. The services are so regulated that the procession reaches the center of the graveyard just as the sun rises if the day is clear. The graveyard services are simple and similar to those held in the church. Leslie's Weekly.

EASTER FLOWERS.

How Florists Have Learned to Time Them to the Minute.

"One of the most interesting features of the florist's business is the timing of the blossoming of certain flowers to meet the requirements for church services on Easter," said one of the scientists of the United States agricultural department.

"So carefully have florists studied the system that by forcing the plants or retarding their growth by the withholding of water or sunshine they can calculate to a nicety the exact date, sometimes far in the future, upon which a certain plant will burst into blossom. Long experience in this line has enabled the florist in many instances to decorate a church with plants bearing buds the day prior to Easter and have them open their blossoms on Easter morning. To the uninitiated this statement may appear rather far-fetched, but floriculture has been reduced to an exact science, which enables us to calculate the precise time required for the plant to blossom after it has put forth its first leaves. Naturally we have to make allowances for the condition of the plant upon which we are experimenting, but only in the case of unhealthy specimens are we ever more than a day-out-of-the-way."—Washington Star.

Easter Eve in Greece.

On Easter eve in Greece cities the square and streets are thronged with people carrying unlighted candles and waiting for the midnight hour, when the watchman cries, "Christ is risen!" and lights a candle. Friend greets friend with the joyful tidings, "Christ is risen!" and the reply, "He is risen indeed!" is heard on every hand. Candle after candle flames out until squares and streets, windows and balconies, towers and housetops, are in a blaze of light. Church bells ring, and the high dignitaries come out carrying banners, while the priests chant over and over again, "Christ is risen from the dead," to which the people acclaim, "Christ is risen!" and for weeks after Easter this is a common greeting of peace and joy.—New York Tribune.

Pious Canute's Lenten Law.

Among the laws of Canute in England in 1052 hunting was forbidden on fast days and Sunday, and a strict observance of Lent was enjoined, the law quaintly reading, "If any one, by fighting, marrying, plundering or the commission of any other flagitious crime, shall violate the fast to be kept in Lent, he shall pay a double compensation."



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