

How to Grow Brains.

DISCOVERY OF AN AUSTRALIAN DOCTOR AND SOME OF HIS EXPERIMENTS.

If the theory of Dr. Kerby Hopper, the Australian doctor, that brains can be made to grow and strongly developed trait of character modified by the application of electricity is correct, says the Philadelphia Item, a wonderful and new field is opened up to the efforts of the scientists. Dr. Hopper, it would seem, has treated a number of cases in which he has applied his system of electricity to moderate or develop various bumps or cerebral nodules whose presence or deficiency is believed by him to be responsible for many human weaknesses as well as criminal proclivities.

Out of 106 cases we are told the doctor succeeded in every instance but one, and the patient in this case was an aborigine of New Zealand, who was found upon examination to have no brains at all. Of course, in such a case as this, the doctor might be excused in his failure to develop nodules. In another case, about which the doctor does not say much, he experimented for some time with a young person described as "Ethel—aged 17," whose cerebral nodule took the shape of an inordinate passion for the stage and a certain young actor thereon. After a series of experiments lasting over several months, from which we may be permitted to remark that it is surprising that the unfortunate young lady came out with any brains at all, her parents were assured that she was entirely cured; that her love for the stage had been entirely destroyed and that she laughed to utter scorn the idea of marrying a poor actor for love. It will doubtless cause a thrill of joy to the romantically inclined to learn that Ethel's perverse nodule impelled her to rise from her bed on the first night she came back home, squeeze herself through a scullery window and run off incontinently with her lover to a minister, by whom they were immediately married. It was wrong, of course, for the giddy young person to thus set at defiance the laws of science, but perhaps she was not to blame for it. Love nodules, in whatever brain they are situated, or whatever clime fostered, do not seem to yield readily to the cold laws of reason or science. It is not known whether Dr. Hopper has concluded to try more issues with love-sick maidens or not, but prudence should suggest to him the advisability of directing his efforts in other directions. Love nodules have baffled before greater men than he, and greater powers than even that of electro-magnetism. Love has a magnetism of its own, compared to which the doctor's article is as a painted fire to the reality.

Tuberculosis in Cattle.

New York state is dealing with tuberculosis in cattle. Statistics show that in New York State about 60,000 persons a year die of tubercular diseases, and the scientific evidence that a large percentage of the mortality is indirectly due to the use of milk from diseased cows is overwhelming. The value of the milk used in the State last year was \$51,500,000, and it is to be feared much of it was poisonous. The new law provides for the expert examination of milk cows. This is the difficult part of the work of enforcement, as only long training and technical skill can enable one to certainly detect the affection in the live beast; even on dissection the use of the microscope is sometimes necessary to aid the expert. But whether diseased or sound the cattle destroyed will be paid for, a reference to a court of claims being provided. An appropriation has been made for the purpose of carrying the law into effect, and the result will be watched with interest.

A plot to kill Prince Ferdinand, ruler of Bulgaria, has been discovered. Sixteen persons are on trial at Vienna, and the developments have been of a sensational character.

A murderer who is to be hanged in Savannah, Ga., has just concluded an unusual financial transaction. He has sold his head for \$15, to be delivered on the day after his death. The money will buy him whatever extras he needs and help to brighten his short time on earth. The purchaser will use the head for phrenological purposes.

They are fond of old things down in Delaware. A Sussex County farmer preserves with pious care and exhibits with pride an ear of corn grown upon his father's farm in 1835, and another produced from the ancestral acres in 1735. Both ears look well, but on examination they prove to be damaged by weevil, and the grains are found to have lost the germinal spark of life.

Missouri boasts of a man who carries in his trouser pocket a buckeye plucked from a tree thirteen years old on a Friday night when he saw the moon over his right shoulder. In another pocket he has a luck stone taken from a cross-eyed perch's head while the tide was out, while about his neck he carries the left hind foot of a rabbit killed in a graveyard in the dark of the moon.

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7. When the outbuildings are not joined to each other the Royal Canadian insures under one sum the "ordinary contents" of all building not cut off by a distance greater than 40 ft., the same as if the contents were all under one roof. The London Mutual requires a separate sum on the contents of each building, if the distance is more than 12 ft. This is a very important difference in many cases.

8. In the Royal Canadian it is a part of the contract that standard STEAM THRESHERS may be used without a special permit and without any restriction as to the distance from stacks or buildings, caretakers, rails of water, kind of fuel or direction of the wind. Many of the policy holders in the London Mutual were obliged to run their own risk while threshing last season, because it was found to be impossible to comply with the conditions of their permit. When a farmer pays for insurance he should secure a policy which will hold him safe when it is most required.

9. The Royal Canadian is obliged to pay its losses within sixty days and usually takes much less. The London Mutual need not pay for ninety days, and since it has become so hard up as to be obliged to borrow money largely, it usually takes about the full time allowed.

10. The Royal Canadian policy is subject to the statutory conditions only. It has none of the numerous variations against the policy-holder printed in red ink on the back of the London Mutual policy.

11. As to security, the Inspector of insurance reports that the Royal Canadian has \$202,758, the amount he estimates to be necessary to enable the company to carry out all its engagements with its policy holders. Besides this he reports that it has to the good the \$400,000 capital paid in cash by the shareholders, and a net surplus of \$517,607 making in all a total cash surplus of \$1,120,365 to protect its policy-holders against unexpected contingencies. In addition to these cash items it has a subscribed capital of \$100,000 not called up. Regarding the security of the London Mutual the inspector reports that the amount of unearned premium it should have on hand is \$290,309. To make up this amount in cash a second call would have to be made on the premium notes for a large amount, leaving a surplus of only \$74,218, even if there were no bad debts, and this surplus is made up wholly of the unpaid balance of premium notes already heavily adjusted. The company reports the losses adjusted but unpaid at the close of the year at \$6,387, but the Inspector of Insurance finds that the liability for unpaid losses at the end of the year was \$20,286. The cash on hand to pay these losses only amounted to \$13,911.

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