SOMNAMBULISM.

Narrow Escapes and Remarkable Doings of Sleep-Walkers.

A JUMP FROM AN EXPRESS TRAIN.

Murder Committed and Murder Confessed While Asleep.

(N. Y. Telegram.)

The somnambulist, or sleep-walker, whose nervous system has caused him to perform wonderful feats while still under the influence of the drowsy god has had many narrow escapes from sudden death. In a number of instances the results have been fatal, and very seldom does the afflicted person return to his couch without receiving some serious injury. Several years ago a remarkable case of somnambulism occurred at Locust Hill, Pa. Samuel Howe, a citizen of that place, had for some time been in a very feeble condition, suffering from dropsical affection. He was 67 years of age and had been able to get about only with the aid of others. One morning his wife awoke and to her surprise and alarm discovered that he was not in bed. His clothing lay where it had been placed the night before, and Mrs. Howe, fearing that he had killed himself to get rid of his sufferings, searched the house from garret to cellar, without finding any trace of him. She then visited the barn, found the door wide open and a horse missing. Mrs. Howe aroused a neighbor, who upon examining the ground about the barn found the tracks of a horse's hoofs leading to the road and along the road in the direction of Harpersville. He harnessed a team and tracked the horse to that place, and from there to other villages, through all of which it had passed without stopping. The trail was kept up as far as Colesville, Broome County, where it led to a residence in the village.

A STRANGE VISITOR.

Making inquiries at the house it was found that it was occupied by a brother-in-law of Mr. Howe and that the old gentleman was there abed. He had ridden up on horseback about 6 o'clock in the morning bareheaded and with only his night clothing on. Entering, he remarked to his brother-in-law that he was very tired and wanted to go to sleep. His relatives were greatly startled at his singular advent among them, and at first thought he was insane. They soon discovered, however, that he was in a state of somnambulism, and at once put him to bed. The gravest fears were expressed as to the result of his extraordinary ride, his physical condition being so precarious. Mr. Howe awoke in about two hours, and was completely dumbfounded when told where he was. He had no recollection of anything since retiring to rest the night before. Beyond a slight soreness and fatigue he complained of no bad effects of the ride, and to the surprise of every one, arose nimbly from bed, dressed himself in some clothes of his brother's-in-law, and walked about with an ease and activity he had not exhibited for several months. He required no aid to get into the waggon to return home, and was quite fresh upon reaching Locust Hill. A singular fact connected with the case was that Mr. Howe had not ridden on horseback for many years previous.

CONFESSING A MURDER.

One night in the spring of 1878 the police sergeant in charge of the Seventeenth Precinct station-house in this city was startled about midnight by the entrance of a young man who insisted that he had just murdered his sweetheart. The visitor explained how his victim struggled, and insisted that he had cut her throat from ear to ear. He added that he had come to give himself up. The sergeant was inclined to doubt the man's story, and the latter then gave him the name of his victim and the number of her residence, both of which were found in the directory, as stated. A policeman was sent to the address given, and had the door opened to him by the supposed victim, who was in robust health. Meantime the self-accused remained in the station house quiet and motionless, watched by the sergeant. One or two questions put to him he neglected to answer, and, suddenly turning upon his heel, he strode to the door and was about to pass out. The sergeant, however, was behind him in a moment and, seizing him by the collar, cried, "No, you can't go now, my friend. You have made yourself out to be a criminal and must abide the consequences." At this time the other looked up with a start, glanced around in seeming astonishment and exclaimed, "What do you mean? What am I here for?" The sergeant informed him that he had confessed to murdering his sweetheart, and this seemed to completely confound him, although he muttered a denial of his guilt. The officer determined to hold the stranger for further examination, and the matter was fully explained in court next morning, when it was discovered that the prisoner was a sleep-walker.

AN EXTRAORDINARY ESCAPE.

A remarkable incident occurred in October, 1878, during the run of an express train at night over the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway. Among the passengers was a lady named Dixon, with a family of eight children, seven boys and one girl, the eldest of the former being fourteen years old. As the train sped toward Milwaukee the children one by one fell asleep, and while they were flying over the rails at the rate of fully thirty miles an hour the mother missed her eldest boy and caught a glimpse of his form as it passed through the car and out upon the platform. She hurried after him, but before she could reach the platform he was gone. He had stepped off the car and plunged into the abyss of darkness that shrouded the train. The poor woman became frantic and the other occupants of the car were also terror stricken and begged the conductor to stop the train and have it backed to the scene of the accident. Milwaukee, however, was close at hand, and, on reaching there a switch engine was despatched to find the boy. He was discovered upon the platform of the last station passed, wandering about in a state of bewilderment, rubbing his eyes and feeling of his shoulder and head, which had sustained slight scratches and bruises. The lad could give no account of his singular action. He knew only that he had fallen asleep in the car and was awakened by the shock of striking the earth upon his shoulders. He had passed through a terrible ordeal in a somnambulistic state, and escaped without a sprain or fracture and no discomfort beyond that occasioned by a few scratches and bruises.

A GO-AS-YOU-PLEASE.

The residents of Irving place, this city were treated to a sensation at an early hour in the morning of October 13th, 1879, it being no less than a go-as-you-please by a medical student clad in a night-gown with umbrella and piano cover. The young man, who lived at Irving place and Eighteenth street, being left alone, while still sleeping arose and clad only in a night-gown stole down into the parlor, possessed himself of a piano cover and an umbrella, made his exit by a window, and hanging the bright-colored cloth over the umbrella so that it fell almost to his bare feet, strode down Irving place. He walked to Fourteenth street, reaching which he carefully folded the piano cover, lowered the umbrella, and wrapping the drapery of his gown about him, passed quickly up to Thirteenth street. Great quantities of Belgian blocks were piled up in the street, and the somnambulist gathered a lot of these under a tree and made four regular piles of them. On these he placed some boards, and then spreading the umbrella again placed it over his head and, shrouded himself with the piano cover, composed himself to sleep. The noise he made in piling the stones awoke several families, and there were many astonished people gazing out of the windows at the strange scene when the young man's father and brother, who had missed him, came up. He was awakened, and was much astonished to find himself in such a curious position. While piling the stones he had hurt his finger badly and it was bleeding freely, but the pain had not disturbed his slumbers.

MURDERING HIS FRIEND.

In some instances murders have been committed by sleep-walkers, and a sad case of this kind occurred in the summer of 1880 at Tyro, a little village in Davidson County, Va. Mr. Urian Phelps owned a store at that place, and anticipating trouble with some negroes, he secured the services of O. W. Click, a young man who lived in the neighborhood, who was in the habit of walking in his sleep. Both lay in the store and watched for half the night and finally fell asleep, having stretched themselves across a bed. It appeared from subsequent developments that Click got up, and seizing an axe that had been placed near to be used in case of an emergency, dealt his bedfellow two blows across the neck, completely severing his head from his body. Click was arrested, but professed to have known nothing of the occurrence until some time after the deed was committed, and even denied that he did it until convinced by the overwhelming testimony of the blood-stained weapon and the condition of his garments, together with the fact that there was no one else in the room and no evidence that any one could by any means have entered and afterward gone out without disturbing locks and bars. A remarkable case of somnambulism was discovered in October, 1881, in the person of Martin Flobischer, a lad of 14, residing with his parents in this city. The lad had become greatly fascinated with the study of drawing, and it had taken such an intense hold on his mind that he was in the habit of rising in the night in a completely unconscious state, and while in that condition working on an unfinished drawing with as much skill as though he were awake. He was utterly unconscious of what he had done on the nights on which he had been up until he saw his drawings the next morning.

A FATAL EMBRACE.

A Bear and a Hunter Frozen to Death Together—Sad Fate of His Affianced.

A Lowell, Mass., despatch says: Arthur Stafford, who claimed to be a son of an English earl, landed in New York in November last, and met a Southerner named Schwartz. On his way to Maine on a hunting and fishing tour Stafford made the acquaintance of Miss Grace, of New York, and they became engaged. On the afternoon of December 31st Stafford left camp for a stroll. A severe snowstorm set in and Stafford did not return. Schwartz and the guide early in the morning of New Year's day, about three miles from camp, found Stafford in the firm embrace of a she bear, both frozen stiff. A knife was sticking in the left shoulder of the bear, and a short distance away was a half grown cub with a wound in its heart. The guide said Stafford had attacked the cub first and was then set upon by the she bear. Schwartz went to Bangor and told Stafford's fate to Miss Grace. The poor girl lost her reason, and will be sent to an insane asylum tomorrow.

New Gold Field.

A Cincinnati despatch says: Nathan Cole, jun., editor and proprietor of the *Northwest News*, of Portland, Oregon, here *en route* to Washington, says the chief matter of interest in that region since the completion of the Northern Pacific Railway is the newly discovered Cœur de Lion gold mining district, near Portland, which has been pronounced by experienced miners the most promising mining field ever opened. It is now shut in by snow, but several companies have already been formed, and over a thousand men are on the spot waiting for spring to open the region. It is estimated that by midsummer twenty thousand prospectors and miners will be in the field. Specimens of ore brought out by prospectors are exceedingly rich.

Disappointed in Love.

A Toronto despatch says: Annie Connor, servant in Fisher's boarding house, King street west, swallowed the contents of a small bottle of laudanum, last Thursday night. She was found lying on a bed and a doctor was summoned. She was aroused with difficulty from the stupor into which she had fallen, and was kept walking about till noon to-day, when all danger was passed. Ted, one of the boarders, was the cause of the rash act, as Annie had fallen in love with him, but he preferred another.

Lord Craven, who recently died, fond of coursing. He gave a favorite greyhound the extraordinary name of Checka bendaleadamarecar.

TANGLED FAMILY TIES.

An Uncle Wedded to His Niece, While the Girl's Brother Elopes with His Aunt.

A Lexington, Ga., despatch says: The story of the elopement and marriage of Joseph I. Stewart with his niece, Miss Hattie Stewart, has had a singular ending. The young couple were accompanied by a brother of the bride, aged 20, and a sister of the groom, who is of the same age as Hattie, who are also out in search of a preacher to marry them, thus making an exchange of uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews. The newly wedded pair started to the groom's mother's, in Jackson County, while the nephew and his aunt left for—no one knows where. The father, accompanied by J. S. Baughn, at once started in pursuit of the pair, and reached Crawford in time to catch the night train, and arrived at Athens about 7 o'clock. They took out a warrant for the arrest of the parties, and then visited Carithers' place. It was about 7.20 when they got there, and the house was still, its inmates having retired. Mr. Carithers was called to the door, and stated that a young couple were stopping with him who answered the description, but begged that the persons make no disturbance. The father consented to remain outdoors while Mr. Baughn went to the nuptial chamber as a mediator. Knocking at the bed-room door, he found that the couple had already retired, but were not asleep. The groom asked what was wanted.

"Put on your clothes at once, Joe, and come here, for I want to talk with you," replied Mr. Baughn. Young Stewart recognized the voice and instantly complied. He seemed frightened at first, but upon being assured that no harm would be done him if he acted upon his advice, Joe became calmer. Mr. Baughn explained to him the heinousness of the offence committed in contracting a marriage with his own niece, for there was a penalty of from one to two years in the penitentiary attached to it. He told him he must at once give up the girl to her father and consent to a dissolution of the unholy bans, for there was no country in the civilized world in which they could live together as man and wife. Joe said that Hattie and himself had long loved one another, and they thought there was nothing wrong in getting married. He did not want to get her in trouble, but if torn from him now it would break her heart. He at last told his bride to dress and meet her father. The meeting between the heart-broken parent and erring daughter was touching. He received her kindly and in tears. She left her incestuous uncle and started for home on the train. Joe Stewart was advised to return to Jackson county, as his presence in Oglethorpe would only augment the excitement. Mr. Stewart employed W. G. Johnson to begin suit to break up the bans. The young people are deeply penitent.

THE QUEEN AT WINDSOR.

Too Much State Formality for Comfort.

The Queen is always rejoiced to get away from Windsor, and her annual residence there, made as brief as possible, never exceeds four months. There is constantly some State formality coming off at the Castle—a Council, an investiture, or a tiresome ceremonious reception; and almost every day "distinguished visitors" arrive to dine and sleep. Here, too, it is necessary that the whole Court *entourage* of lords and grooms in waiting, and other ornaments of the household shall be in constant attendance. Business, both public and private, is always heavy when Her Majesty is at the Castle, and Ministerial audiences are frequent. In the ordinary routine of life at Windsor, the Queen is now rarely seen outside the extensive private demesne. An early drive to breakfast at Frogmore, followed by a long morning of work there, a stroll in the gardens and then back to lunch at the Castle, after which another walk on the slopes on East Terrace, or a drive in the Great Park, and back for some quiet reading before it is time to prepare for the quarter to 9 dinner, is the programme of an off-day; and very soon after the dinner party the Queen again retires to her own private rooms. Windsor is very splendid, and also very comfortable; but it is not, and never could be, a cheerful residence, and Her Majesty's associations with the place are sad and depressing. The tradespeople of Windsor are always rejoiced to see the flag taken down from the Round Tower; for these gentry have been so favored during the last twenty-two years that they have at last come to think that the Castle is maintained for their especial pleasure and profit. When the court is in residence "the apartments" are of course closed, and no excursionists are to be seen, and complaints of "bad trade" are to be heard; and, indeed, the inhabitants of the "Royal Borough" do not scruple to grumble loudly if the Queen happens to be at the Castle on a bank holiday.—*London World.*

Late United States Jottings.

Salt Lake City claims a population of 28,000.

In New York, thieves who pretended to be plumbers, stripped a house of its water pipe.

Mr. William Livingstone, jun., has assumed the duties of Collector of the Port of Detroit.

Drought is causing considerable damage in various parts of the Island of Jamaica. In Trinidad it is feared the cattle will suffer seriously from want of water.

Chicago foots up a record for the year 1883 of 657 unnatural deaths, forty-four of which were murders and homicides and 136 suicides. The others were accidental.

The price of beer in Philadelphia, at least, is said to be higher on account of the cost of signs. There are said to be $50,000 worth of swinging signs in that city, which are paid for by the beer-drinkers. The man who said it cost him $300 a year to put that fine color on his nose, knew something about the cost of drinking-signs.

The women on the jury at La Conner, Washington territory, last week, it is said, behaved with all due propriety, discharging their duties as creditably as has been done by a jury of the sterner sex. They were not insulted by any one, nor did they give any cause for offence.

CURRENT TOPICS.

VENTRILOQUISM is declared by an expert to be very largely a humbug. There is no such possibility as throwing the voice to a distance. The old stories of Wyman the Wizard, in which he figured as exploiting such ability in the midst of a crowd, were necessarily fiction. What passes for ventriloquism consists simply of mimicry and facial immobility. The performer must be some distance away from his audience, or he is powerless. Whenever he wishes to make them believe that his voice sounds at a distance, he merely lowers it, and indicates the direction for their imagination to take. He can deceive them sideways, upward, downward, or backward, but he never undertakes to produce the effect of a speaker at their rear. To a listener close by no ventriloquist can be in the least deceptive. Nor is there any truth in the theory that he talks with the top of his gullet, or with aught else than the organs intended by nature to be vocal. By holding his lips as fixed as possible, and avoiding such words as cannot be pronounced without palpably moving them, he assists the delusion. But no man is so skilful that he can get on without a screening moustache.

THE project of flooding the Sahara, and thus opening up Central Africa to commerce and civilization, appears to be reviving—the opinion still being urged by geographers and engineers that, if the water of the ocean could thus be let into that desert, the climate, the soil and the sanitary condition would all be improved. Though nearly two thirds as large as Europe, and containing some two hundred million inhabitants, the only means of communication with the rest of the world lies in the caravan tracks. In the Sahara desert there is a remarkable depression covering an area of about 60,000 miles, this depressed portion being known as Elijuf, and said to extend from within twelve miles of the seashore to regions in the close neighborhood of Timbuctoo. The theory of both ancient and modern geographers has been that Elijuf was originally filled with water, which flowed into the ocean, but that, a bar having gradually formed at the entrance, the flow inward was stopped, and the heat of a vertical sun caused the inside water to evaporate. The practicability of reopening this ancient channel is the great question.

AN eccentric individual recently made an offer to the Manchester Royal Infirmary of a gift of £1,000, conditionally that an experiment should be made in the treatment of the medical and surgical cases without alcohol for twelve months. The offer was not accepted, and the refusal was based on the grounds that alcohol as medicine was sometimes necessary to save the patient's life; therefore to exclude it altogether would render it probable that the patient's health would materially suffer, if indeed death did not ensue. It is likely the same individual will repeat the offer to another hospital. With reference to this question of the use of alcohol as an article of drink an interesting discussion has recently been going on in Britain, and the *Times* the other day had two letters advocating the use of hot water as a refreshing beverage. The writers are particular in stating that the water must be *hot*, as hot as one can bear it, and they claim many beneficial effects from its use—amongst others that it cleanses, and also increases the peristaltic action of the bowels.

A PORTRAIT of the Queen, copied from a picture by Herr von Angeli—a standing figure dressed in black, with a lace veil, and both hands joined, holding a handkerchief—has been executed by an amateur under the Queen's immediate supervision, and will be placed in the National Portrait Gallery. One of the special rules laid down by the trustees at the foundation of the gallery is that no portrait of any one living, excepting of the sovereign or his or her consort, shall be admitted. The full length portrait of Prince Albert was not added to the gallery until after his decease, when, by Her Majesty's command, a replica was made of the last picture he ever sat for, by Winterhalter, for presentation. The rule has now received a practical illustration, and it is to be hoped that the likeness and artistic qualities of the performance will prove worthy of the occasion.

A DENTIST of Geneva has invented a new and ingenious process of tooth-drawing. A small square of India-rubber, pierced with a central hole, is pushed over the tooth till the upper part of the root is reached. The India-rubber gradually contracts, pulls on the root, and the offending tooth is finally enucleated, without causing the patient any pain whatever. Four or five days are generally required to complete the operation. Very slight bleeding and a slight swelling of the gum are the only inconveniences experienced. M. Paul Bert brought this ingenious method before the Academie des Sciences in Paris; when M. Galippe remarked that the process was already known, and quoted a case in support of its efficacy, in which a young girl had placed a ring of India-rubber round her two front incisors, and forgot she had done so, the result being that she lost the teeth.—*British Medical Journal.*

ACCORDING to the general report on the English census of 1881 which has just been issued, the aggregate population of England and Wales in that year was 25,974,439. The rate of increase during the decade ending in 1881 was 14.36 per cent., a higher rate than in any decade since 1831-41. The population of London is put by the report at 3,816,483, exceeding the populations of the nineteen largest cities of England (excluding London), taken together. The rate of increase in the population of London has been higher than that of the other large cities of the country as a whole, being 17.3 per cent. The total number of males returned as engaged in some definite occupation was 7,783,646, or 71.5 per cent. of all the enumerated males of 5 years of age and upwards. The total number of females so employed was 3,403,918 or only 29.4 per cent. of enumerated females above the age indicated.

IN his recent great speech, John Bright paid a high compliment to the British press. He said: There is nothing that is a greater instrument of intelligence, knowledge and altogether of good than the dissemination throughout the country of a well-conducted and morally influenced press. The newspapers of this country, so far as they are well conducted—and I believe no newspapers in the world are better—are working silently every day as they enter your houses a beneficent revolution, altering the minds of the people, extending to them knowledge, showing where there are grievances, defending their rights, and, I believe, spreading throughout the whole country and through our legislation principles of good and principles of morality which in times that are past were little thought of amongst the people.

THE Copland system of asphaltic wood pavement, introduced in London, is claimed to meet some of the most important requirements for the purpose which have hitherto been unfulfilled, and, though more costly at first than some other methods of roadway construction, its durability and satisfactory wear more than meet that point. The advantage of simplicity is at once presented, namely, a bed of concrete, with a layer of asphalt over it, upon which are laid transverse courses of red pine blocks, with intermediate spaces; these spaces are filled in partly with heated mastic asphalt, and then with coarse lime and gravel grout, flushed with hot air, to the surface of the roadway. Finally, about an inch of rough gravel is spread over the whole, and left to be worked in and compacted by the ordinary effect of traffic.

THE equity of murder has just been beautifully illustrated in Cincinnati. Two boys, a negro named Joseph Palmer and a German lad named Berner, conspired to kill their employer, William H. Kirk, and rob him. The agreement was that the one who struck him the first blow should have $50 extra in the divide. They killed Kirk in a stable, pounding him with a club and beating him with a hammer. The amount of money obtained was $245. As Palmer struck the first blow he claimed and received $45 extra as his share of the proceeds. Both of the young scoundrels have confessed their crime and it is hardly possible that they will escape the gallows. Although fifty murders have been committed in Cincinnati since 1866 there has been no legal hanging since that date.

What They Got.

The barber got a little shaver in his.

The bad boy rose up early and took half his brother's candy and got a thrashing.

The cook got discharged the day before and had no place to hang her stocking.

William Henry got a boy's tool chest, and by this time has spoiled three legs of the piano.

Baby got a candy cane two feet long, and up to the present hour has mussed three aprons and had two tussels with the colic.

Grandpa got a two-shilling jack-knife and a tin tobacco-box. "Bless you, my children, bless you!"

Father got a dressing-gown, which will go to the garret after to-day; a pair of slippers one size too small, a necktie which hangs to starboard, a seal ring which can be used in place of brass knuckles. He ought to be thankful, as he furnished the money to buy 'em.

Grandma got a calico dress with blue dots in it, a new pair of spectacles and a snuff-box which cost 30 cents. "La, me! but my children hain't forgotten me yit!"

Mother got a breast-pin, a bottle of cologne, a work-box and a bracelet. Her heart melted. She didn't expect anything better than a sealskin sacque and a set of diamonds, and is consequently overjoyed—in a horn!

The policeman got a wrap over the head with his own club, and can guarantee the feeling.

The fireman got an alarm. 'Twas false. One more bright vision dispelled.

The alderman got a "ring." It wasn't marked. They never put name or initial on such things, or the public would be wiser than it is.

The wholesale porter got a lift. He went up in the elevator, it was easier than to climb the stairs.

The bank cashier got an envelope. The President had inclosed an appreciative check for $500, and—but, no! It was simply the photograph of a check-raiser.

The commission merchant got mad. The porter allowed three barrels of cranberries to become frost-bitten, and the family must use 'em up this winter. A pound of sugar to a quart of berries!

The letter-carrier got a send-off. Sent three miles to deliver a corn-salve circular he overlooked the afternoon previous.

In fact, everybody in this locality, from the vag. who got into jail to the poet who got into the papers, got something to remember Santa Claus by.—*Detroit Free Press.*

Dreams and Their Cause.

A Dr. Granville writes to the London *Times*: "Many persons who are not by habit 'dreamers' are dreaming a great deal just now and wondering why they do so. The answer is very simple. When cold weather sets in suddenly and is much felt at night, the head, which is uncovered, has the blood supplied to it driven from the surface to the deep parts, notably the brain—the organ of the mind. The results are light sleep and dreams. The obvious remedy is to wear a nightcap or wrap the head warmly, at least while the cold weather lasts. I believe we of this generation suffer more from brain troubles than our predecessors because we leave the head exposed at night and the blood vessels of our cerebral organs are seldom unloaded."

EASILY PROVEN.—It is easily proven that malarial fevers, constipation, torpidity of the liver and kidneys, general debility, nervousness, and neuralgic ailments yield readily to this great disease conqueror, Hop Bitters. It repairs the ravages of disease by converting the food into rich blood and it gives new life and vigor to the aged and infirm always

A desperate poaching affray in Lord Rosebery's Scotch estate near Edinburgh on Dec. 8th, resulted in the death two days later of a gamekeeper named John Fortune. Two other gamekeepers and one of the poachers were badly hurt. The wounded poacher and another were captured.