

## HE SWALLOWED 192 NAILS

AN ACT WHICH COST AN INSANE PATIENT HIS LIFE.

A Tack, Button, Wadded Hair and Wood Also Weighed Over a Pound and a Half And all Devoured on the Same Day—The Most Extraordinary Case on Record.

In the case of a patient, who is run down in health the doctor frequently prescribes iron as a tonic, but hardly in such extensive doses as that recently taken by a man in England. This man was forty-three years of age, and had been for seventeen years an inmate of the County Asylum, Lancaster, suffering from chronic mania or insanity. He had not been a very violent patient, and in many respects was fully as rational as a man perfectly possessed of his senses.

It is quite a common thing among persons suffering from deranged intellects to swallow foreign substances, and, strange to say they appear to have an especial leaning towards such bodies as will do the greatest injury and most likely bring about fatal results. Among these bodies may be mentioned needles, nails, tacks, thimbles, splinters of wood, and other things of an equally unwholesome and indigestible character.

One day this patient was observed by an attendant to be very pale and evidently seriously ill. He was at once taken to the hospital ward, to which he walked without any indication of uneasiness or pain, undressed himself and got into bed. It appeared that he had swallowed some nails on the previous day between breakfast and dinner time. On inquiry it was learned that he had taken his food as usual on that day, but had eaten little or no breakfast on the following morning. The patient did not appear to be suffering any great pain, though his face was

### REMARKABLY PALE.

When asked if he felt badly he would lay his hand across his stomach and would make repeated, though ineffectual, attempts to vomit.

The physician in charge discovered a little to the left of a line drawn along the middle of the stomach a lump seeming of about the size of a duck's egg. The lump was heavy, irregular and to a certain extent moveable. A rough and, as afterwards turned out, a very inadequate estimate was made of the probable weight of the mass constituting the lump by getting the patient to remain on his hands and knees and placing the palm of the hand on the stomach.

The physician then tried to remove the lump by passing a long pair of forceps through a rubber tube into the stomach. But after repeated trials he was unsuccessful, the only results being to add to the misery of the patient. It was apparent that the case was a serious one, demanding immediate and radical treatment, and it was therefore decided to operate.

A cut two inches long was made in the middle line of the stomach, the patient having been put under the influence of chloroform. On passing two fingers through the opening thus made into the stomach the physician felt a heavy, irregular mass, and several hard, sharp points projected through the wall of the abdomen. An attempt to bring the stomach through the opening failed, owing to the great weight of its contents. The opening was therefore enlarged, and after some difficulty a portion of the stomach was drawn out and exposed to view.

The stomach itself was then cut open and a hole was made large enough to admit the middle and forefingers. Upon inserting the two fingers through this hole the physician made a very startling discovery.

The stomach was found to be occupied by a

### MASS OF RUSTY NAILS.

many of them nearly three inches in length. Some were very sharp, bent and twisted and as a consequence, they had to be taken out with the two fingers. This was a very tedious process, as many of the nails could be removed only one at a time. When about half the mass had been removed, a piece of matted hair, nearly two inches in length, was withdrawn from the lower end of the oesophagus, from which it was projecting into the stomach. The doctor worked industriously, as every minute increased the patient's danger. When he had finally cleared the stomach of its unusual contents, the net results were as follows:

One hundred and ninety-two nails, the majority being two and a half inches in length, and many even longer; half a screw nail, a piece of brass wire, a carpet tack, several small pieces of stick, a button and the mass of hair already mentioned. The whole weighed one pound, nine and a half ounces.

The wound in the stomach was then closed, the patient was put to bed between warm blankets, and a quarter of a grain of morphia was administered hypodermically. But in spite of all the doctors could do the man died four hours after the operation, which had lasted two hours.

An examination was held twelve hours post mortem, when it was found that the mucous coat which lines the interior of the stomach was badly lacerated, and in some places entirely torn away from the surface. No more nails were found in the stomach, but in the passage leading directly from the stomach there were removed a nail about one inch in length and two small

### SPLINTERS OF WOOD.

It is supposed that these must have escaped through the incision in the stomach, as no perforation could be detected.

In speaking of the operation, the physician who performed it, Dr. James F. Gemmel, says:

"Castratomy, a word which at first indicated an incision through the abdominal walls for the surgical treatment of various affections of the viscera, is now employed to indicate opening the stomach for the removal of foreign bodies. The operation which I

performed may be considered as a very successful one.

"That the stomach is capable of containing, without any marked pain or other symptom, even large foreign bodies, and for considerable periods, is well known. The post-mortem records of our large asylums furnish curious and notable examples of this.

"It may be said that, excluding gunshot wounds and accidental swallowing most cases of foreign bodies found in the stomach occur in the insane. These cases are often discovered only after death. How long the foreign substances have remained in the stomach is frequently quite impossible to determine, there being practically no symptoms of discomfort during life. Of the class of substances likely to be attended with little apparent discomfort, and which may also remain for long periods, are hair, string, spoons, and so forth. Such bodies may be removed without an operation.

"When, however, the foreign body is sharp and likely to perforate, or when a number have been swallowed and form a mass unable to be passed through the intestinal canal, the aspect of the case becomes quite altered, because sooner or later a fatal result may be apprehended.

"In this case the foreign substances were numerous and sharp-pointed, and they formed a mass which could be got rid of by no muscular effort, but would lie in the stomach and

ULTIMATELY CAUSE DEATH by ulceration. Consequently it was necessary to operate immediately.

"One peculiar circumstance in the case was the intact condition of the mucous membrane of the oesophagus. That the entire mass had not been in the stomach more than twenty-four hours and had been swallowed, as the patient said, between breakfast and dinner-time on the previous day, may be inferred from these facts: first, such a mass could only remain a short time without producing obvious symptoms; second, though expulsion by vomiting was, I think, impossible, still, as the mass was moveable, it was quite within the range of probability that when the patient lay on his right side one or two of the smallest of the nails might have escaped through the stomach in the course of a few days.

"The extraction of the last portion of the nails had to be done very hurriedly owing to the state of the patient. The case was one of the most remarkable I have ever met, and though the unfavorable result is to be regretted, still the operation afforded the patient his only chance of life."

The foreign substances removed from the stomach were photographed by Dr. Gemmel shortly after the operation. The unfortunate man must have swallowed the substances "at one meal," so to speak. He probably came upon a pile of rusty nails and other rubbish, and was induced by some wild delusion of his deranged mind to swallow the stuff. There is no other case on record, so far as known, where an individual has loaded his stomach in such an extraordinary fashion.

## NAPOLION SLEPT THERE.

A Peasant's Cottage in Russian Poland Which Preserves Memories of Bonaparte's Visit.

The French Consul at Warsaw, the capital of Russian Poland, recently received a request from a peasant that he aid him in repairing his cottage, which was falling into ruin. It was in this cottage that Napoleon Bonaparte spent a day and night in December, 1806. The cottage stands five versts from the fortress of Nowogeorgiewsk, in the little village of Okuniw, on the bank of the river Narew. It was while superintending the passage of his troops across this river that Napoleon occupied the peasant's cottage.

Above the door these words are carved deep in the wood: "Palais de l'Empereur, le 23 Decembre 1806." Another inscription, this in Latin, is carved upon a black marble slab set in one of the walls of the house and conveys substantially the same meaning. It is not known by whom the tablet was placed or who carved the words over the door, but it is asserted that they date from the time of Napoleon's visit. The present occupant of the cottage is a direct descendant of him who entertained Bonaparte beneath his roof, and the report made by the French Consul says that the peasant tells with enthusiasm the details of the imperial visit, which had been handed down from generation to generation, and that he exhibits to visitors a statuette of the Emperor, which shows him seated on a throne with the world beneath his feet. This statuette is very old, and the peasant regards it with the utmost reverence.

### The Percentage of Poor Eyes.

Only one person in fifteen has both eyes in good condition, and in seven cases out of ten one eye, generally the right, is stronger than the other. It is found that just as people are right or left-handed, so they are right or left sighted, and while apparently looking with both eyes, they often really use only one. Out of twenty persons whose eyes were tested by a German doctor, two only were found to be left sighted. The reason of the greater strength generally possessed by the right eye is not altogether understood, but probably the natural tendency to the greater use of the right side of the body has something to do with it. In using weapons, for instance, mankind has been taught to assume for ages attitudes in which the right hand and side have most exercise, and this discipline has undoubtedly had its effect on the eye. Old sea captains, after long use of the telescope, find their right eye much stronger than the left—the direct effect of exercise. This law is confirmed by the experience of aurists. If a person who has ears of equal hearing power has cause to use one ear more than the other for a long period, the ear brought into requisition is found to be strengthened, and the ear not used loses its hearing in a corresponding degree.

### Striving to Forget.

Jimps—Hello, Jamps. What do you think of that cigar I gave you this morning?

Jamps—Hs-s-h! Don't—don't—I don't want to think of it. I'm trying hard to forget it.

## PRACTICAL FARMING.

### To Make Hens Lay in Winter.

Good breeds of fowls are becoming quite common on the farm, and many are using more pure-bred males. A greater interest is taken in the improved flocks and better quarters. The results are so encouraging that the poultry yard is coming to be considered one of the paying departments of the farm. There are but few farms where 100 hens will not support themselves nine months in the year upon that which would otherwise be wasted. Two cheap houses, boxed, battened and lined with tar paper, with a shed attached to each where the fowls can scratch and exercise on stormy or snowy days, will keep them comfortable and inclined to lay all winter. The shed may be pole frames covered and sided with straw or shock fodder. The house, if open, may be made comfortable by setting fodder around them, to be removed in summer if troubled with mites. A good house is cheapest to begin with if one can afford it, but a cheap straw-covered one will answer if warm and clean. The fowls should not be let out on stormy days nor while the snow is on the ground, and yet they need exercise to keep them laying and healthy. So the shed, protected from the cold winds and open only on the south, gives them a place, and small grain in the shed or scattered in straw gives them an incentive to work. A piece of meat hung just high enough to give them a little trouble in reaching it interests them amazingly, while a few bits thrown into the shed causes a race that is healthful. Water with the chill off should be provided several times a day in cold weather. Keep the snow cleared away from the doors and throw your coal ashes around it and under the sheds. The hens like to pick among them, and they form a hard, dry surface not easily made muddy. Grit is indispensable. Coarse sand and broken dishes pounded fine will meet this need. Many cases of so-called cholera result from indigestion, caused by a lack of grit to grind the whole grain. I find ground oyster shell relished in small quantities, especially by the Leghorn family. It furnishes material for the eggshells.

### Sheep as Scavengers.

Sheep stand at the head of the list of farm scavengers. No animals kept on the farm will compare with them in this respect. They love variety in food, and they are constantly on the look out for it. They move rapidly over fields, and then come back over them again and again; hence no plants growing in the pastures escape their notice. And there is no weed, perhaps, which they will not eat if allowed to get at it while it is young and tender. They are especially fond of weed seeds while yet growing in the head. When turned into a stubble field, for instance, in which such weeds as lamb's-quarters and rag-weed are maturing their seeds, they will soon turn a lot of these into mutton. Every farmer, therefore, should have a flock of sheep to enable him to turn weeds into mutton. Their presence will soon manifest itself in the greater cleanness that it will bring to the farms on which they are kept. Let the sheep have free range, therefore, in the nooks and corners. Allow them access to the stubble fields before the plow is to follow them, and many weed seeds will be placed by them beyond the reach of harm. It has been well said that the sheep has a golden hoof. It may be said with equal propriety that it carries a scavenger's broom.

### Lameness in Horses.

Most maladies resulting from horse-shoeing are due to uneven and unbalanced wall (that part of the hoof that is visible below the hair when the hoof is placed upon the ground) in connection with an undue height of the heel. If the heels are allowed to grow too high the greater part of the weight is thrown forward upon the bone structure of the limb and the bones of the feet are forced forward against the wall in front.

Inflammation of the foot and soreness in the joints and bones soon follow such a course. If the toes, on the contrary, are allowed to grow too long, then the preponderance of weight is thrown upon the flexor tendons, which are on the back side of the foot, and these tendons become inflamed. The hoofs, therefore, must be pared in such a way that the weight of the animal is equally distributed between the bones and the flexor tendons. If one heel is permitted to grow higher than the other, bruises on the high heel, called corns, will result.

Horses with weak, tender, or bruised sole, may for a time require leather or waterproof pads, but as the sole grows these should be discontinued. They are never required in healthy feet where the sole, which is the best and most natural protection, is allowed to grow undisturbed by the knife.

Horses with corns should have their shoes made with a wide inside web, which rests upon the bars, or have for a time a bar shoe. The last nail on the inside should also be dispensed with, and the seat of the corn or bruise carefully pared out without either injuring the frog or the bars.

### Feeding Turnips to Dairy Cows.

There seems to be much difference in the opinion of dairymen as to the practice of feeding turnips to dairy cows. A well-posted writer says: The only plan is to feed the roots to the cows in moderation, and they will not flavor the butter. White turnips will be used more freely than swedes. As to the quantity of either of the roots to be given, every man must judge for himself, as roots grown on some land may be given more freely than those from other ground. The manner food is prepared will not prevent the roots from making the butter taste unpleasantly. A good way is to mix the chaff, roots, and meal thoroughly as soon as put in the heap. Some men advise that cows be fed with swedes after milking instead of before; others put one or other supposed preventives in the milk when panned, but I find that in spite of all care either swedes or bean meal given freely will make the butter taste

ill-flavored. If they do not do so while the butter is fresh, the flavor will come out before it it a week old.

### Digging a Vegetable Pit.

Many people practice the plan of keeping vegetables for a part of the winter, at least, in pits dug in the ground. Where such a plan is adopted some precautions are necessary. The trench ought, if possible, to be dug upon a ridge, or knoll. In any event the ground should slope from its top on both sides to turn surface water. If dug upon a ridge, a small box drain can be made at the center of the bottom, carried the length of the trench and then turned through the bank to come to the surface farther down the slope. A bit of wire gauze netting will keep out mice and other animals, and the trench, wholly freed from the danger of standing water, can be kept for use year after year.

### "TOMMY ATKINS" CURLS.

The Duke of Cambridge Does Not Approve of Bangs and Frills.

Some agitation prevails among the rank and file of the British army owing to the issue of a sort of new sumptuary regulation by the retiring commander-in-chief, who, it seems, during his farewell tour of inspection, was pained to notice that many men were wasting their substance upon hair oil, curling tongs, and such like aids to manly beauty and success in Cupid's field. To the old Duke of Cambridge's critical eye it was evident that the dry rot of effeminate luxury had set in among the inmates of the barrack rooms. The younger men not only curled their hair and anointed it liberally with oil, which of itself must take up a good deal of time properly belonging to their most gracious sovereign, but the curls were allowed to stray a half inch and even more in front of the forage caps, which, of course, is conducive to all manner of unwholesome excesses. Moreover, the forage caps themselves were, in too many cases, cocked at an irregular angle, for no other purpose, apparently, than to give the curls a good show. A general order has now been issued calling attention to the Queen's regulations, which prescribe the manner in which the hair shall be worn by private soldiers and the way forage caps should be kept on the head. The order does not specify the exact punishment for contumacy, but doubtless this also provided for by the Queen's regulations, which, indeed, regulate everything in the British army, to the number of buttons on the tunics and the material of the shoelaces.

Strange to say, this sort of paternal despotism, which is quite characteristic of the Duke of Cambridge, has never interfered with his popularity among the rank and file, and this order, although it hits Tommy Atkins in one of his tenderest feelings, has not prevented the soldiers from enthusiastically cheering their old chief at his farewell reviews. In fact, this enthusiasm has been so marked as to displease the permanent bureaucrats at the War department, who see in it the probable establishment of a dangerous precedent. It has therefore been conveyed to the Duke "that although cheers from the troops are not irregular when given to him as a member of the royal family, yet in his military capacity they are against the regulations of the service."

### WHEELBARROW GLOBE GIRDLE.

Three Hop-sal Parisians, One of Them a Woman, Try to Accomplish the Jules Verne Act in a New Way.

The latest round-the-world feat to be attempted is to girdle the earth in a wheelbarrow. Two Parisians, one of whom will be accompanied by his wife, started from Place de la Concorde, Paris, last Sunday morning to make the journey in this way. Each will take a turn at the machine en route. They will first wheel to Switzerland, then to Italy, Turkey, Persia and China, that is to say, of course, if nothing unusual happens to prevent their covering this big circuit. At Canton they will embark for San Francisco, thence they will trundle their barrow southward to Buenos Ayres, and from that port will take passage on board a liner for Harve.

Perhaps their journey may end, as did that of another Parisian not long ago. He, too, started from the Place de la Concorde, and announced that he was going to walk around the world. A large crowd of his friends and admirers of both sexes assembled to bid him adieu, and there was much enthusiastic hugging, kissing and shedding of hysterical tears. Finally he tore himself away, and was followed by the plaudits of the large crowd, which had assembled during his leave-taking.

About three months afterwards one of his friends happened to be in a suburb of Paris, and seeing a cozy-looking winery and inn, entered in search of bibulous refreshment. Much to his surprise he saw, seated at one of the tables, reading a paper and smoking a cigarette, the gentleman who had started out so gaily on his journey around the world.

"What! have you returned already?" he cried, rushing up as soon as he had established his friend's identity to his own satisfaction.

"Returned?" echoed the bold traveler. "Returned? Why, this is as far as I ever got. I reached this place the afternoon of the day I started, and found things so comfortable that I concluded to remain. Why should I look further for ease and pleasure when I found them here?"

### Shields of Silk.

It appears that the comparatively few losses to the Japanese troops in the Manchurian engagements in the recent war with China were not altogether due to the bad marksmanship of the Chinese. As a means of protection against the cold the Japanese wore a quantity of floss silk under their outer clothing, and this acted more or less as a bullet-proof shield.

## FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

ODD HAPPENINGS THAT HAVE RECENTLY OCCURRED.

Rain in Egypt—Gutenberg's Five Hundredth Birthday—The Sultan of Turkey And His Meals—The Insane King of Bavaria—Laughing Powder—Pasteur's Hydrophobia Cure, Etc., Etc.

In some portions of Upper Egypt rain is absolutely unknown, and in Lower Egypt there is sometimes no rain for years.

Statistics show that in British East India an average of sixty-five persons are killed by snakes, tigers, leopards, wolves, bears, hyenas, &c., every day—about 24,000 every year.

Gutenberg, the inventor of printing, is supposed to have been born in 1397. His native city, Mayence, already proposes to fitly celebrate his five hundredth birthday in 1897.

If science is knowledge, the new woman will get newer still. Old World science declares that in proportion to the weight of the whole person the weight of woman's brain is greater than that of man.

At the present time France has about 2,000 rabid Anarchists within her borders, so far as the police know. Only one-fourth of this army of frothy lunatics are Frenchmen; of the rest, 45 per cent. are Italians, 25 per cent. Swiss, &c.

Jane Cakebread, an Englishwoman, takes the cake for drunkenness. She has just been punished for the 289th time for disorderly conduct while in a state of intoxication.

A professor at the University of Pisa, who professes to have made careful inquiries, states that, in proportion to the population, Italy shows the largest number of murderers—13 to every 100,000 inhabitants. The relative number in Spain is 9, in France 2, in Germany 1, in Great Britain 1, &c.

In South Wales the workmen using the tramways are granted reduced rates for their morning trips. Every one travelling by the early morning trains can obtain workmen's rates.

In Italy grapes are measured, not weighed. Italy's grape crop this year amounts to about 85,000,000 bushels, far below the average crop of 120,000,000 bushels. Disease and drought caused the deficiency.

The Sultan of Turkey always takes his meals alone. He needs neither table nor plates, knives nor forks, but gets along very well by helping himself with a spoon and his fingers to whatever is served him in small dishes. Of course, the many servants in attendance are looked upon as nobodies.

We are used to hear of leprosy in Asia—almost everywhere in Asia, even in Siberia. But it sounds strange to hear that the Danish Government proposes to erect special hospitals for the lepers in Iceland. That classic island has a population of only 80,000, yet among these are 300 lepers, so reports a Danish doctor lately sent there to investigate.

Not long ago a Leipzig editor was sentenced to five months' imprisonment for criticizing one of Emperor William's speeches. The confiscation of newspapers commenting unfavorably on the sayings and doing of the young potentate or of his obedient servants occurs rather often, too.

Score one for London City enterprise. Reports some time ago had it that the effort to exterminate the rabbit plague in Australia through an epidemic introduced by inoculation with a deadly serum promises success. But it may be just as well if it's a partial failure. A London firm proposes to take annually not less than 150 tons of dried rabbits at a reasonable price. By and by dried rabbit may be as common as dried fish.

Otto, the insane King of Bavaria, has just celebrated his forty-sixth birthday—that is, it was celebrated throughout his country by a religious service. Since his accession to the throne the mad sovereign has never left the Castle of Fuerstenried, which is surrounded by high walls. Once a year the Prime Minister makes him a visit to see how he is getting along. His latest report says that His Majesty's physical condition leaves nothing to be desired, while his mental condition is simply pitiable. Still Otto will continue to wear the crown, according to law.

Some years ago a young tinsmith named Lippmann came to this country from Tally, Hungary. After a time he wrote a letter to his former employer, asking him for the hand of his daughter. The answer must have been encouraging because it led him to send all his savings—several hundred dollars—to his sweetheart. Not long ago he returned to his old home, only to find that the girl and her parents would have nothing to do with him. The girl and her father sneaked away to hide from him. Lippmann followed, without finding them. Then rendered desperate, he bought two revolvers, and after first killing the girl's mother, who had been left behind, he committed suicide by shooting himself through the head.

Everybody has heard of laughing gas. But there exists also laughing powder, which is even less of a laughing matter. The Neue Pester Journal chronicles a short time ago that an actress suddenly began to laugh violently on the stage, while dressed in widow's weeds, and just in the act of mournfully kissing a wreath which was to be laid on the grave of her dead husband. The actress had to leave the stage; the curtain fell. Investigation disclosed that the former star of the company had sprinkled the wreath with laughing powder. After the laughing fit, the poor victim of jealousy and powder fell into a death-like sleep, which lasted twenty-four hours; but then Opheelia was herself again.

Speaking of Pasteur, Henri Rochefort affirms that an exaggerated value is placed on the alleged hydrophobia cure. He cites Dr. Peter, a member of the Academie de Medicine, who has kept account of the failures under the "system Pasteur," and who declares that the number of deaths from hydrophobia has increased rather than decreased since inoculation supplanted the old-time, immediate cauterization of the wound. Rochefort mentions a number of cases in which patients died after their discharge from the Pasteur Institute. He recalls, for instance, that at one time ten or a dozen Russian peasants who had been bitten by a mad dog came to Paris to undergo treatment at the Pasteur Institute; after their return to Russia every one of these unfortunate nevertheless died of the horrible disease.