

CHANGED THEIR EGOS

TRANSPosed BROTHERS' SOULS AT DEATHBED.

Evidence Shows That Something Queer Was Done—Experts Think It Was a Hypnotic Trick.

Budapest letter: Vienna is not to be outdone by Paris in the production of remarkable parades.

Last week Paris correspondents recorded the resurrecting of the dead in leading Paris hospitals. Today we have, perhaps, an even more absorbing story here.

How far it is true I cannot say, but the old philosophers averred the performance recorded here was a matter of no uncommon occurrence in ancient Egypt.

From a small village in the neighborhood of Budapest comes the following remarkable story:

"The horrors of the death-bed have apparently been added to in a new and unexpected manner and the question of the raising of the dead has assumed a new phase.

"Modern surgery has hitherto stopped at the limits of the physical being and has been content to consider the transfusion of blood as the greatest miracle which it was capable of accomplishing.

"An old and wealthy Czech named Ragell, had two sons, Rudolph and Jean, and the latter, who was his favorite, lay at the point of death. In his despair over the threatened loss of his favorite son Ragell had recourse to the assistance of a well known gypsy oracle and between these two a plot was arranged, it is alleged, which will possibly send both of the plotters to the gallows. Ragell betrayed to the oracle the fact that his distress would have been minimized if it had been his other son's life which was attacked by disease as his whole hope was based upon the existence of his younger son Jean.

The oracle at once saw a way to enrich himself and lessen the distress of Ragell, and told him that if he desired to have such a plan consummated it would be possible for him at the critical moment when death was taking place to bring about a transference of egos so that the soul of his favorite son could be transferred to the healthy organism of his brother whilst the latter's would assume the place of the one which left the defunct body.

In order to accomplish this mysterious feat of the gypsy claimed that the brother must absolutely be present.

"There was no difficulty whatever in bringing such an arrangement about, as Rudolph naturally desired to be at the bedside of his brother at such a solemn occasion as his death. The gypsy oracle was there, of course, for the avowed purpose of trying to prevent the fatal catastrophe.

"What weird scene actually transpired in that remarkable death chamber no earthly tongue has yet told and but for the strange stories which have floated out of the quiet village to the world beyond, the gossiping of peasants and chatter of servants, nothing would ever have come to light, for those who made the guilty compact are naturally silent on the subject.

"Both of the brothers were married and it is to this fact that the really tangible evidence which has been found in support of the extraordinary story has been forthcoming.

"The brothers were both affectionate, devoted and faithful husbands, and among the many freaks attributed to Rudolph since his brother's death is that he has deserted his own wife and is now living with the widow of his brother, showing the most passionate devotion for one another.

"In reply to the expostulations of his wife Rudolph solemnly avers that although he retains the outward semblance of his former self he is really Jean.

"This story, which was at first received with ridicule by the villagers and servants, has been coupled with the fact that the old gypsy was around the Ragell house so much at the termination of the younger son's illness and his well founded reputation as a sorcerer has furnished the necessary link in this most sensational story.

"To add to the mystery of the situation the old father has shut himself up in his lonely mansion and refuses to see anybody. The servants aver that he is haunted by the spirit of Rudolph, which is trying by every means in its power to avenge the diabolical act that caused its disembodiment in favor of Jean.

"They aver and state themselves as being willing to bear witness to the fact and ready to face any court of law, that they have seen the apparition of Rudolph a dozen times in the old chateau since the death of Jean and that its countenance is so disfigured by hatred and despair that it resembles a fiend more than it does the once happy brother.

"Another rumor credits Jean with being so horrified by the strange tales which are afloat and which so peculiarly corroborate his own belief that he acts at times like a demented person.

"The rustic population are firm believers in the supernatural and it is difficult to find any of them who do not firmly believe the story.

"Their superstitions are so firmly rooted that they would not dare to molest the gypsy or the elder Ragell, although it is said that the police have investigated the case under the belief that the stories which have gone abroad were only a cover invented to hide a murder growing out of jealousy on the part of the brothers over the love of Jean's wife.

"They have abandoned the murder theory, however, and are at a loss to know how they can possibly take any

action in the strange matter. "Psychologists say that changes of identity, or the transposition of egos are by no means impossible and that many well authenticated happenings have occurred.

"These, however, are accidental so far as they go, and to withdraw their bodies and travel that one of the experiments is to establish itself in shells whilst they are absent from them.

"This is the same danger they apprehend when passing into what Westerners call the trance state. "There are many cases on record familiar to every newspaper reader in which living persons have been other than themselves a number of years, afterward again assuming their own identity. It seems possible that these may have been due to the transference of egos.

"Some of the more thoughtful persons here who have devoted their attention to the subject do not hesitate to aver their belief that Rudolph was hypnotized by the time of his brother's death and made to believe that he was Jean so that the old magician could obtain money from his father.

"This would not be a hypnotic feat and, therefore, there may be truth in the part of the story told by the father had been led into a remarkable delusion." VALERIE DELAMAR.

AMERICAN PHONES ABROAD.

They Have Superseded the Older Systems in the British Capital.

Ainslee's Magazine: An electrical industry which has grasped the market here again America is unexcelled, and she has just testified to American skill in the English in a measure to slip from their grasp is the making of telephones. Here again America is unexcelled, and she has just testified to American skill in the English in a measure to slip from their grasp is the making of telephones. Here again America is unexcelled, and she has just testified to American skill in the English in a measure to slip from their grasp is the making of telephones.

The London system is such that it frequently takes an hour to secure connection. The telephone rates, too, are exorbitant, and the subscriber pays a yearly rental of \$400 for five telephones. This does not include charges for conversations over three minutes. The American system about to be introduced will be the biggest cheapest, and best in the world. Business houses in the best residences only \$20 a year, and for the system English experts travelled to a number of foreign countries making tests, and they chose American telephones, not alone because of their efficiency, but also because the order could be filled here in less time than elsewhere.

HOW STATESMEN LIVE

NEW YEAR'S FUNCTION AT THE STATE SECRETARY'S HOME.

Popular Idea That Our Cabinet Officers Enrich Themselves by Holding Office a Fallacy.

Washington letter: Christmas has passed over pleasantly enough and there never was a more brilliant celebration of the great feast.

At the white house, as I intimated would be the case, in a former letter, there was only a quiet family party at the Christmas dinner the details of which have been given by the daily papers.

Outside of this, however, there were many brilliant social functions, in which members of the cabinet and the foreign diplomatic corps largely figured.

The next affair of importance will be New Year's day breakfast, which the secretary of state gives annually to the cabinet officers and the diplomatic staff, and is this year to be quite a brilliant affair—perhaps the most brilliant of the entire social season; for one can imagine what a breakfast given to an assemblage comprising the entire cabinet and foreign diplomats means.

The menu is usually most extravagant, particularly in regard to wines, as this is the only public occasion, if I recollect correctly, when the state department has for its guests the entire foreign contingent of diplomats, and it can not afford to put up a poor dinner.

The cost of this meal would make an ordinary mortal shudder and pity the poor secretary of state, who has to bear the brunt of the expense as he does of many of the other luxuries pertaining to his office—such for instance, as the dining and dining of the foreign diplomatic corps most of the time he is in office as well as the entertaining of his colleagues, meetings of whom generally take place at his house.

The secretary of state must keep a fine carriage and a retinue of servants, because there are times when his house is the scene of immense dinners and receptions, including hundreds and sometimes thousands of visitors.

It is doubtful if any cabinet officer finds it possible to live upon his salary—of course for the secretary of state to attempt to do so would be supremely ridiculous.

His salary is \$8,000 per year—about enough to pay his French chef or his resplendent English butler.

There are some who vainly imagine that the cabinet officers and senators and congressmen live lives of magnificence and go away from the capital at the end of their terms with national reputation and, not the least feature of the situation, plethoric pocket books.

Perhaps a few lucky ones succeed, in making a haul in stocks or by some illegitimate means, but as a rule the great plum holding office is the honor conferred by having done so, which remains a family heirloom.

The heads of the executive departments at Washington hold office under quite different tenure from those having charge of the executive departments in European governments.

For instance, an American cabinet officer is known only as a member, while a European official of corresponding rank is called a cabinet minister. It is

surprising that the mere difference in expression of the title should give one a better footing than does the other, but such is positively the fact—at least among that toadying element which forms a large portion of the fashionable life at any political capital.

The status of an American cabinet officer—contrary to that of a foreign one—is more of a position as head of a business department than that of a mere diplomat. In his official capacity the head of an American bureau can both sue and be sued. Moreover, he holds his position entirely at the will of the executive head of the government—the president. When he retires he hands over all his legal complications to his successor, who often finds more than enough in the troublesome details of his inheritance upon entering office than to compensate for the honor thereof.

In regard to the importance of offices, that of secretary of state, of course, stands first, but it is perhaps the most unsatisfactory of any.

It is necessary for the incumbent of this office to have a plethoric pocket book, for he must not only be the hardest worker of any man in the cabinet, but must have the financial facilities for doing the honors for his colleagues.

His reward is something akin to the satisfaction which comes from the doing of good works.

All this he must be willing and able to undertake for the good of his country for the princely sum of \$8,000 per year.

Beyond this he receives the blame for all that may happen to go amiss in the diplomatic entanglements between this and other countries, exasperating fact, he may even, at the very point of securing a great coup as the result of long labors then be obliged to suddenly resign office, leaving the glory of the feat accomplished to his successor.

The difficulties of his position are innumerable and we are exceedingly fortunate when we find a man with both the means and ability to fill the position.

The importance of the office, it is true, depends upon the kind of a man we have at the head of it but that, of course, may be said of any office even up to the presidential throne itself.

And the discouraging feature of this position is the fact that after years having labored to perfect a treaty of the utmost importance he has no more power than you or I to enforce it.

After the state department has carried its labors to what it considers a perfect conclusion the treaty goes before the senate, where a dozen or more personal opinions may conflict with it and assist in tearing it to pieces. Then the mutilated treaty goes to congress to meet a similar fate and after its revamping by both houses the state department can do nothing to carry it into execution unless the house grants the money, should the carrying out of it make an appropriation necessary.

The more level-headed a man the secretary of state is the less bungling or changing there is apt to be with treaties, and as the staff of his department is the smallest of any, the better it is for the consummation of our growing international arrangements.

As a matter of fact, the secretary of state really deserves first honors for having successfully consummated the proposition, but he really does not get it from most of the people, who give the glory to the president, especially if

they happen to be of his political complexion.

The principal expense which the other cabinet officers have to bear is the dinner which each of them is expected to give the president every season. This is a social function of great importance and almost equal to the breakfast given on New Year's day by the secretary of state.

But dining and writing and social functions alone only constitute a portion of a cabinet officer's expense during his term at Washington.

His wife and family must be supported in a style sufficient to support the dignity of their position. They must have luxuries that in their own simple lives at home would never be dreamed of. Each must, of course, keep a stylish carriage, live in god style, and make a display proportionate to his important office.

Most of the foreign ambassadors are provided for handsomely, and their elegance and profusion of display may be said to have perverted the simplicity of early American life at the capital.

The most elegant equipages and gorgeous costumes are seen among the foreign staff on Pennsylvania avenue. They outshine as a rule those of the wealthiest Americans.

If Mrs. Roosevelt ever said she intended to dress on \$500 a year or something to that effect, she never really meant it, for such a thing would be impossible. Nor could the example of one president's stem the tide of increasing display and expenditure which may be noticed here every year. It would be similar to the case of Canute trying to hold back the tides of the sea.

Instead, therefore, as public opinion would have it, the big men in the affairs of our government having the opportunities of their lives to fill their pocket books and go home to their native towns and cities millionaires, it is generally a case of returning with the barren honor of a short lived tenure of office and an exhausted pocket book.

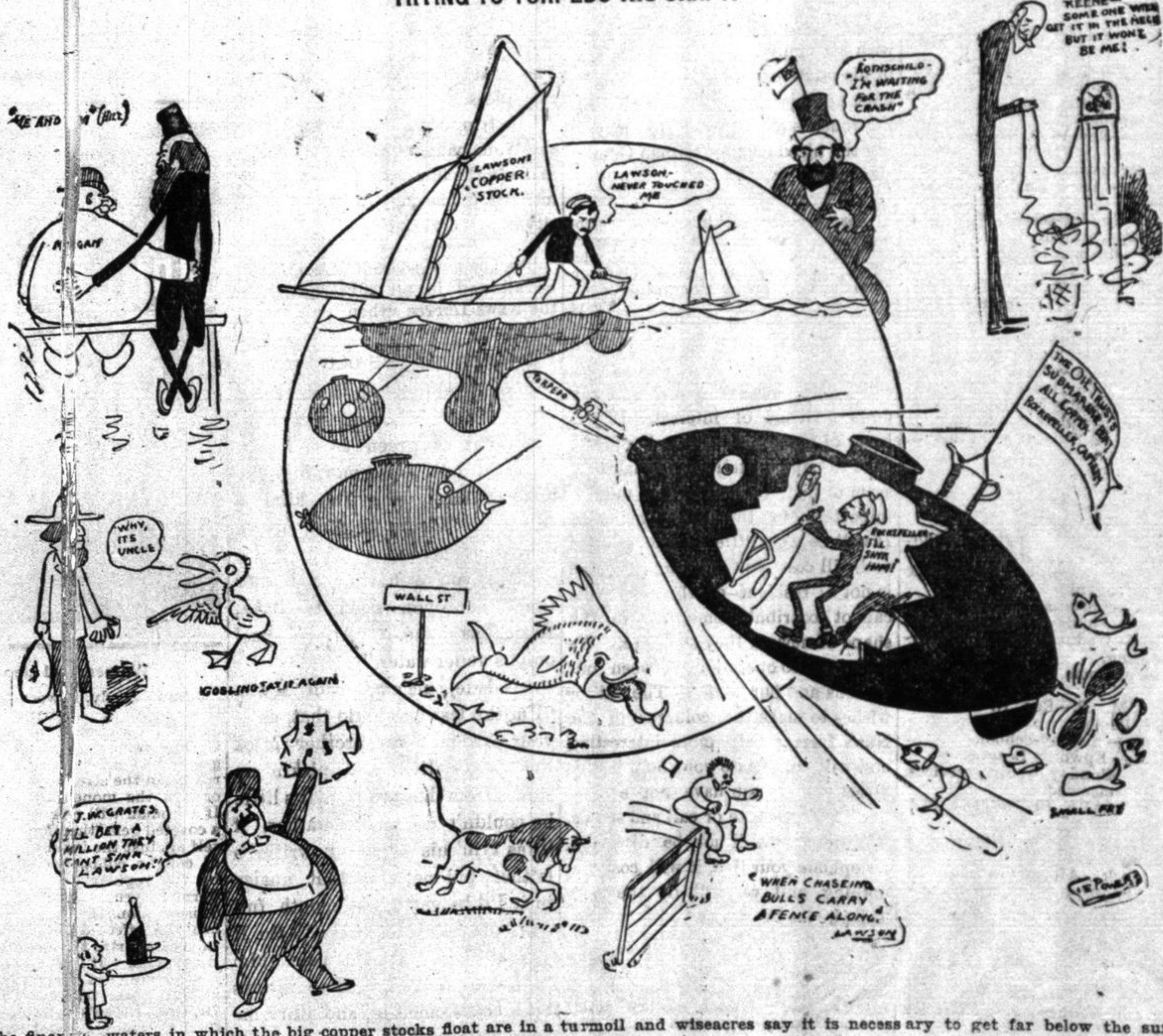
THE MAILS OF CHETWYND.

Unique Postal Arrangements of a Village in Illinois.

Freeport (Ill.) Journal: The inhabitants of the village of Chetwynd and others near by have a unique way of receiving and sending mail. Recently orders were received to discontinue the postoffice at Chetwynd because of rural free delivery passing within half a mile of that place, and so a large elm tree at the cross roads was utilized and made to serve as a postoffice. There are 17 boxes attached to the tree, besides the government mail box, which is used solely for money orders, registered letters, etc. Chetwynd gets all its mail in a large box on the left of the tree, and fully 120 people receive mail at this tree. The elm is a magnificent specimen of its kind, rising fully 100 feet, without a limb within 30 feet of the ground. It is three feet in diameter at the bottom.

Owing to the depredations of native sportsmen, the hare bids fair to become extinct in France. The passenger boats from Folkestone take over daily supplies to Boulogne to make good the shortage of native animals. This is the first season that hares have been imported from England.

TRYING TO TORPEDO HIS CRAFT.



The financial waters in which the big copper stocks float are in a turmoil and wiseacres say it is necessary to get far below the surface to discern the causes of the commotion. The artist here gives his view of the way things are working down there, and, incidentally, throws in a few Wall Street sketches.