

# EXTRAORDINARY CASES.

## THE PECULIAR PHYSICAL SYMPATHY BETWEEN TWINS.

When One Was Sick the Other Suffered Too—Amusing Stories Resulting From Remarkable Likenesses.

How many shilling shockers have been weaved around twins, we wonder! But however much fiction has been written on this subject, there is something extraordinarily strange and interesting in cases of twins in real life, which are far more common than most persons believe. We were recently greatly entertained during an interview with a gentleman who has gone deep into the subject from a scientific standpoint, and who has gathered together some amazing instances of the resemblance of twins and its amusing consequences, says a writer in London Tit-Bits.

I have a couple of huge manuscript books filled with accounts of cases of twins, said this gentleman, and the majority of them are peculiarly interesting. Perhaps the most notable fact is the intense sympathy that sometimes exists between twins. For instance, you probably know that if very often happens that one twin will follow in health every detail of the health of the other—suffering the same complaints, disorders and diseases as the other, if not at precisely the same time, very shortly before or afterwards.

I have a case in mind where the sympathy was exceptionally strong. The twins were brothers, and one was in India with the parents, and the other in England, studying for some examination or other. The young man in India contracted measles, and was laid up with it for three weeks, before the end of which time the fellow in England was attacked in the same way. Very good; they both recovered.

Some few months later, the fellow here, who had recommenced his studies before he had properly recovered his strength, was laid up with a mild ATTACK OF BRAIN FEVER. The announcement of this fact, sent to the parents by a friend in England who had the boy in hand, actually crossed in the post a similar announcement concerning the brother in India, who certainly had not been doing anything likely to bring on such a malady. Again they both recovered, though the lad in England was ill considerably longer than his twin brother. Some years later they both died of the same internal disorder within eight or nine hours of each other.

I have accounts of at least twenty cases of similar sympathy. I do not hesitate to acknowledge that very often the diseases or infirmities with which twins are simultaneously afflicted are accounted for by the laws of heredity—that both twins become victims of afflictions from which their parents suffered in a greater or less degree; and it is obviously feasible that when one twin inherits a disease the other twin will do so, while had they not been twins one might have inherited and the other entirely escaped the disease.

But not by any means is every case of this kind explained in that way; and I don't think such an explanation would fit the case the strange facts of which I have just given you; I am positively certain it would not fit another case I know.

It was a case of twin brother and sister. The sympathy was very strong between them; they were more like two parts of one person. When one was suffering any pain—headache, toothache, or any little ill like these—the other generally had a suggestion of it, although at the time of which I am speaking they lived more than a hundred miles apart. They were very much attached to each other, and corresponded regularly. I have seen letters of theirs in which, sometimes one, sometimes the other says, "I am sure you are not well to-day," or "I feel that you are writing to me."

Well, one day the brother, who was employed in London was run over and had his

### LEG BROKEN BY A CAB.

He was taken to an hospital, where he was kept for a few days. On being sent to his lodgings he found a letter written by his sister on the evening of the day in the afternoon of which he broke his left leg. In that letter the girl wrote, among a mass of other things, "Are you suffering with rheumatism, Jess? I think I am, for I have had a nasty ache in my left leg since luncheon. It came on suddenly, and I feel sure it is rheumatism."

You might ask why, if the sympathy were so strong between them, the girl did not guess something serious was wrong with her brother, and come up to town. My answer would be that during the day the pain in her leg increased so much that she was perfectly convinced she had rheumatism, and took to her bed, where she remained until she felt better, when news of the accident reached her, and explained her rheumatism.

But the fact which strikes me as being most peculiar is that when the brother died a short time ago—a year or so—the girl did not die also; she sank into a very low state of health when he was dying out in the Transvaal, but entirely recovered some time after his death, and has since enjoyed excellent health; indeed, she, who, like her brother, had never been robust, says she half believes that in dying her brother took her and his own delicacy away, and left her his strength as an addition to her own.

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An Irishman is too nimble to be caught when he doesn't wish to be apprehended. Cardinal Manning delighted to tell the following story as an illustration of the national elusiveness:

An Irishman, the son of one who had been hanged, having been asked how his father died, thus eluded the admission of the fact:

"Sure, thin, my father, who was a very reckless man, was just standing on a platform haranguing a mob, when a part of the platform suddenly gave away, and he fell through, and thin it was found his neck was broken."

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### SHAKESPEARE'S LIMITATION.

It beats me, mused the modern theatre-manager. This here William Shakespeare wrote the play of Hamlet, in which Ophelia gets drowned, yet he leaves the drowning scene out.

It does seem queer, observed the stage carpenter, with a touch of vanity; but maybe he didn't know how to make a tank.

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### RUSSIAN LIARS.

Russian diplomats hold that it is no disgrace or dishonor to lie in the most unblushing manner in order to promote the interests of their country and of their sovereign. When the late Czar asked once of Count Ignatieff how he came to be nicknamed "The Father of Lies" while Ambassador at Constantinople, he with a low bow responded: "In the service of your Majesty."

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### WHAT SHE CALLED HIM.

Partner. I was never so deeply insulted in my life, said tired Thompson to Weary Willie, as he joined his companion in the road.

"Did she ask you to work for your dinner?" "Naw!" "Did she invite you to take a bath?" "Naw!" "How did she insult you?" "She said I was an unfumigated fraud."

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Magistrate (to the accused)—It appears that you gave the plaintiff a black eye? Prisoner—Yes, your worship, but I'm quite prepared to give him half a sovereign as compensation.

Magistrate (to plaintiff)—You hear what the defendant says! Are you willing to accept the half-sovereign? Plaintiff (eagerly)—Rather! (To the defendant): Come outside, old chap, and black the other eye.

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In compiling this book care has been taken to omit none of those common words whose spelling or exact use occasions at times a spelling difficulty, even to well educated people. The main aim has been to give as much useful information as possible in a limited space. With this in view, where noun, adjective and verb are all obviously connected in meaning, usually only one has been inserted. The volume will thus be found to contain the meaning of very many more words than its professes to explain.

To those who already have a dictionary, this book is recommended, because it is compact, light and convenient; to those who have no dictionary whatever, it will be invaluable. One may be secured by writing to the above concern mentioning this paper, and enclosing a three-cent stamp.

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