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WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON, TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 5, 1907.

R. F. IRVING, Editor and Proprietor

Our Store will offer a whole lot of articles DURING FEBRUARY At a price that will make them move.

A big lot of odds and ends remnants at bargain prices Overcoats, for men and boys at cost Ladies jackets at one-half price.

We are receiving by every freight some new goods and will be prepared for the early buyers this month. Don't forget that we handle Sewing Machines, Carpets, Rugs, Lineolums, Etc.

Call and See **J. H. HARRIS,** Corvallis, Oregon

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OUR STOCK includes all the requisites of every game and sport. We can fit you out with all the latest things whether you want to row, play base ball, tennis, fish, hunt or go bicycling.

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Corvallis, Oregon.

COME IN ONCE

And you will sure come again after seeing our Fine New Line of Base Ball Goods Just in

Base Ball Bats Masks Mitts Gloves Etc.

Tennis Sets Balls Boxing Gloves Striking Gloves Indian Clubs Etc.

GUN HODES

A MURDEROUS CAT

THE FELINE SUCKED A BABY'S BREATH AWAY WHILE SLEEPING.

"Keep Cats Away from Your Sleeping Infant," Is a Warning to Mothers, from Dr. Thomas H. Laidley—Other News.

San Francisco Examiner, of Feb. 28.: In this skeptical, scientific age we are accustomed to scoff at everything we cannot explain. We deny that witchcraft ever existed except in the superstitious minds of those who persecuted unfortunate whom they believed to be thus "possessed." We smile at the efforts of certain pseudo-scientific enthusiasts to prove phenomena which our senses cannot detect—such as the presence about us of the spirits of the dead. We insist on keeping in the category of old superstitions the statement that the lives of infants are sacrificed to a horrible, instinctive passion in cats to inhale their breath, thus suffocating them.

The last-mentioned belief, which was quite general up to a century ago, probably is the most difficult of all for us to credit in this age. For this reason the documents printed are of really extraordinary interest on the subject. Both the mother, who witnessed the awful spectacle of a great black cat drawing the last breath from the lungs of her baby that was living and well a few minutes before, and the coroner, whose jury in its verdict corroborated her statement, make declarations which cannot be ignored, coupled with warnings to all other mothers of infants to keep cats out of the house.

The two statements printed in this article contain all the real knowledge that exists on this weird subject. As explained by the deputy coroner of Alleghany county, Pa., where the tragedy occurred, medical men are unable to account for the phenomenon.

Deputy Coroner Laidley's theory that cats gain a sort of pleasurable intoxication through inhaling the vitiated and slightly poisonous air from the lungs of infants differs from the ancient theory, wherein the odor of milk was what fascinated the animal. Reptiles have been said to be a menace to infants in the same way from the same cause.

Plainly it is only the sleeping infant that can be in any such danger, for, being awake, its cries would frighten the animal away and alarm the household. It is, perhaps, conceivable that, asleep, the child thus attacked might succumb to suffocation without ever awakening or appreciating its peril.

At any rate, the two statements which follow are from sources which entitle them to respect, and they contain circumstantial accounts of the only instance of this nature that has had official recognition in modern times.

"It must be true that my baby—my only child—was killed by the cat sucking the breath from its little body. The coroner believes it, and that was the verdict of the coroner's jury.

"Besides I saw the cat crouching on the breast of my baby with its nose pressed tight against my little one's nostrils.

"Only a little while before the child had been in perfect health; now it was dead.

"I had heard of such horrible things, but I did not believe them. I thought them merely ancient superstitions. Even when my neighbor, Mrs. Neunberg, spoke of it and warned me to keep the cat out of the room where the baby slept, I laughed at her; I had no idea such a thing was possible, any more than witchcraft is.

"Little Bermanita Maria was my only child. She was six months and one day old. Never had she been ill. She was bright all day and every day.

"It was on Tuesday, January 29, that I saw her alive last. After I had nursed her she went to sleep and I put her in a rear room in a cradle while I washed up the supper dishes.

Fifteen minutes later I went into the sleeping room to get another dry towel to complete my work with the dishes and noticed the cat in the cradle.

There was nothing to attract me

in this except a snarl from the cat as I passed the cradle. When I heard that angry growl I raised the light and saw the position of the cat. It was crouching on my baby's breast with its nose pressed against her nostrils.

"Then occurred to me the stories I had heard about a cat sucking the breath from a child. I became alarmed and threw the cat out of the room.

"As soon as I saw the beast out of the house entirely, I sought my little one and could not arouse her. Calling for assistance, I fell in a faint and Mrs. Augusta Meunberg came to my assistance.

"I revived almost immediately and told her the story. Both of us took up the baby and found it was not breathing. It was dead—the only child I had. All signs of life were gone, and I swooned away.

"The cat has disappeared and no one has seen it since, although we had it for more than a year. It was a large black cat. The hair stood up all over the body straight, and the tail was bushy like that of a squirrel.

"This seems to me the most horrible thing that can happen to any one. It is like a terrible nightmare that never leaves me—the sight of that cat crouching on my baby's breast, sucking from it the breath of life.

"It seems strange now that I never before believed in such things. Now, if I were blessed with another baby, no cat should enter my house—nor any other animal. Never again shall I laugh at the wisdom of our great-grandparents, who could believe things without trying to explain them."

Dr. Thomas H. Laidley says feline pets are a menace to the health of young children, and in this case fatal results followed from a pet cat being allowed unrestricted freedom of the sleeping quarters of an infant. For the second time within three years this office has been called upon to investigate the death of an infant from a cat sucking the breath away from the tiny body, and the public should take warning from this latest case. Under no consideration should a cat be allowed to approach the cradle of a baby.

Three years ago I was called to investigate the death of an infant in a fashionable apartment. The child had died in a mysterious manner and I was about to order an investigation after viewing the body when I decided to take another look at the corpse. As I entered the death chamber I saw a cat upon the breast of the baby with its nostrils close to those of the infant. As I approached the cat made a wild spring and attacked me. Twice I was bitten in the leg by the enraged animal and I killed it with the

stick I carried.

This stirred memories of strange cases I had read of and I ordered a post mortem of the body. The lungs showed that the child had been suffocated and it was the inference that the cat had sucked all the breath out of the body. There was no strong evidence, only a strong string of circumstances that led me to bring in a verdict to that effect. But in this latest case there does not appear to be any shadow of doubt. The cat was caught in the act. There is no doubt about the matter, as the post mortem showed conditions exactly like the parallel case referred to.

It does seem strange that a cat should seek the life of a child when the oxygen in a room is more than sufficient to sustain it. Somehow or other I am inclined to the theory that the poisonous gases from the body must have the same effect upon a cat as liquor has upon a man, that they produce a sort of intoxication or stupor that is appreciated by the animal much as a user of liquors or drugs appreciates their effects upon himself.

There is no explanation of the subject that I can think of except this. Since holding the inquest, the attaches of the office of the coroner have discussed the matter with a number of medical men, but the latter cannot explain the phenomenon. All have heard of such cases in print, but not a single medical man that I have talked with can cite a case which has come under his personal observation.

There is only one thing for parents to do—banish the cat from the house while a child is maturing.

San Francisco, March 1.—The long and spirited contest to secure cheaper water rates for San Francisco culminated in drastic action last night, when the board of supervisors, after three hours of warm debate, adopted a resolution declaring the franchise and works of the Spring Valley Water Company—variously estimated to be worth from \$27,000,000 to \$53,000,000—forfeited and escheated to the city and county of San Francisco for the public use and benefit.

Before the seized franchise and property, however, could actually be taken from the company, due process of law would have to issue from the courts; so the adoption of the resolution takes the effect of a declaration on the part of the board of supervisors of an intention to institute legal action to deprive the Spring Valley Water Company of its property.

FRUIT TREE spray any quantity at Smith & Dawson's next to J. R. Smith & Company.

MONEY to loan on approved security Apply to S. L. Kline agent.

ADAMS RETRACTS

MINER DENIES UTTERLY HIS CONFESSION TO McPARLAND.

Done to Save Himself—Detectives Told Him if He Helped to Convict W. F. M. Officers He Wouldn't Be Taken to Colorado.

Wallace, Idaho, Feb. 28.—That a deliberate conspiracy was formed among the officers of the penitentiary and the detectives to implicate the leaders of the Western Federation of Miners in the assassination of ex-Governor Steunenberg, and that this conspiracy was to be backed by false evidence, obtained by threats and bribes, is in effect the charge made by Steve Adams before the court this morning. Adams' story was in substance as follows:

"On the sixth day after I was taken to Boise and put in the cell with Harry Orchard I was taken to the office of the penitentiary and introduced to Detective McParland. He told me about 'Kelley, the Bum, and other men who had turned state's evidence and had been set free. He told me some Bible stories, too, but I cannot remember what they were, as I am not familiar with the Bible. He kept me there until 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning trying to get me to confess.

"McParland told me that he wanted to convict Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, St. John and Simpkins, whom he called outthroats. If I would not help to convict them, he said I would be taken back to Colorado and either hung or mobbed. If I did help, I would only be taken to Colorado as a witness. About 2 o'clock in the morning they served us with a nice luncheon, and when we parted, about 4 o'clock, McParland told me he was my friend, and told me to think of my family. They put me back in the cell with Harry Orchard, who talked to me about the need of backing up his story. I was somewhat frightened.

"The next day McParland called again and as he was leaving me I called him back and said I would do what he wanted me to do. He told me to think well what I was doing, to think of my family and save myself. He said he would see that my family was cared for. He told me if I was still obstinate I would be taken back to Colorado. "When the confession was made, McParland led me on step by step

Continued on page 4

AVOID ALUM

AN UNSEEN DANGER IN FOOD

TO GUARD SHIPS against the unseen dangers at sea, the United States Government maintains lighthouses.

To guard your home against the unseen dangers of food products, the Government has enacted a pure food law. The law compels the manufacturers of baking powder to print the ingredients on the label of each can.

The Government has made the label your protection—so that you can avoid alum—read it carefully, if it does not say pure cream of tartar, hand it back and

Say plainly—
ROYAL BAKING POWDER

ROYAL is a pure, cream of tartar baking powder—a pure product of grapes—aids the digestion—adds to the healthfulness of food.