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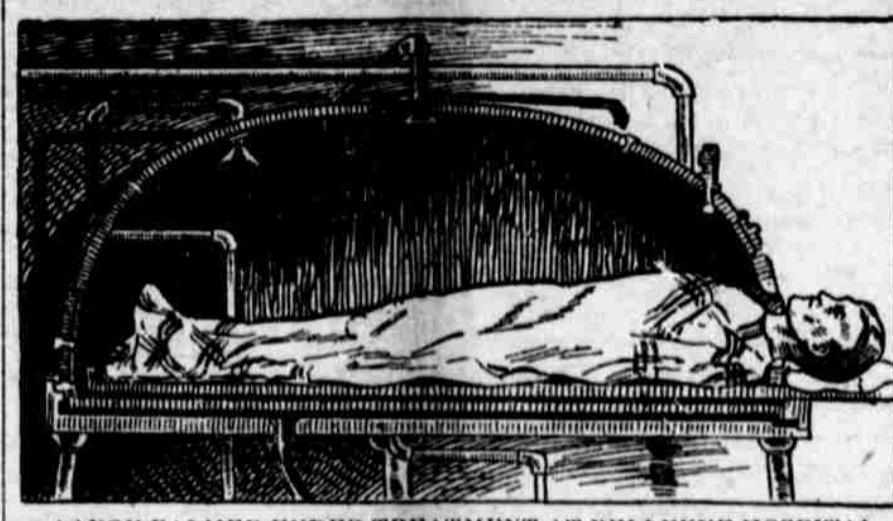
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BAKING HUMAN BODY
MAN WHO IS ROASTED IN A GREAT OVEN.

Subjected to Intense Heat in Hope of Curing a Grave Malady—His Limbs Were Ossified by an Attack of Rheumatism.

Once in every twenty-four hours Aaron Palmer is baked alive in the great oven of the Bellevue hospital, in New York City. At a temperature of from 350 to 400 degrees he is allowed to roast in the oven for from half to three-quarters of an hour. Then he is removed, thoroughly massaged, and placed in the sun, where a broiling process is begun. And all because he is afflicted with arthritis deformans. Translated that means that he has gout. Not the plain gout that many suffer, but an acute rheumatic gout, which has practically ossified his limbs, so that for over three years his legs and arms were as hard as marble, being frightfully wasted and distorted, and absolutely incapable of any movement or feeling. His condition was pathetic in the extreme and it was only a question of time when the dread paralysis would encroach further upon his body, until it affected some vital organ and thus put an end to his life.



AARON PALMER UNDER TREATMENT AT BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

It was death that Palmer has been waiting for during these years of suffering. When he was first taken to Bellevue there was some hope of saving his life, but that hope speedily departed when it was found that by no means known were the doctors able to stimulate a perspiration in any of the affected parts. Meanwhile the disease was spreading slowly and surely, and at last hope of stopping it was entirely abandoned. Vapor, Russian and Turkish baths failed to aid. Applications of heat were absolutely useless and recourse was even tried in wrapping him up in blankets and placing his feet as near as they could be placed with safety to a red-hot stove. None of the means tried seemed powerful enough to affect in the slightest the dread malady which affected him. Had it not been for the placing of the great new ovens in the hospital he would shortly be a corpse. Now, however, there is hope of saving his life. More than this, there is every prospect not only of stopping the encroachments of the disease, but of relieving parts already affected. Indeed, the ossification, if it can be so spoken of, has been removed from his arms entirely except from the fingers, and his legs have been revived from thigh to knee. With continued treatment it is expected that the calves and fingers and feet will be saved, and that Palmer will be able to resume his daily life where he left off four years ago, a cured and healthy man.

The Disease Held Him Fast.
Twelve years ago Palmer was first afflicted with rheumatism. He grew worse in spite of the various treatments which he underwent. Finally his legs and arms began to draw up and shrivel, and it was not long ere he was a helpless cripple. No thought of sending him to the hospital occurred to his family until four years ago, when he was suddenly affected by the deadening of his limbs. First his feet were affected. And then the calves and hands. There seemed every prospect of the whole body succumbing to the fearful trouble and great interest was manifested by physicians to see how long he could live. When his feet were first deadened they were affected as though frozen. They became as cold as in death and then gradually stiffened. No strength was sufficient to move them. Then, as the ankles and calves followed, recourse was taken to the various processes recited above to see if something could not stave off the trouble. Finally, when the thighs were similarly stiffened, it was impossible for him to do else than breathe and absorb his food. The arms came next, starting with the finger tips. This spread much more rapidly and in less than a month the entire limbs were rendered useless. It was at this stage that the baking process began. None of the doctors really thought any effect could be produced upon Palmer. It was a month before the slightest encouraging sign was seen. It was noticed during this time, however, that no ill effect was produced, so treatment was persevered in. After this length of time a single drop of perspiration was noticed on one thigh, so small that it was feared that it might be water dropped upon him by some means. However, the next day more beads appeared, and from that time on a perspiration was steadily induced. There was no let up, and it was not a fortnight before the flesh became soft and pliable, although there was still no evidence of power. It was not until recently that any power was developed and then only by constant massaging.

As the arms were affected quicker than the lower limbs, so they yielded more readily to the treatment. They were in due course treated similarly. When once the disease began to be dissipated in them it was speedily conquered. Less than three weeks ago they were still held in the marble grasp. To-day all but the fingers have been released. The fingers and toes are now drawn up against the palms of his hands and soles of the feet. The flesh of the calves has become pliable and soft and the knees are almost released from their captivity. In another fortnight it is expected that everything, except possibly the digits, will be well again. The cause of the trouble has been a deposit of calcium salts in the tissues covering the bones in the parts affected. The flesh has fallen away until the man has become little better than a skeleton, except for his trunk. His weight was down to eighty pounds, and the limbs were reduced to half their usual size. Since the restoration of power he has taken on flesh rapidly in the relieved parts, and he now weighs over a hundred pounds. His normal weight since the beginning of his illness until the ossification began was about 130 pounds. Before he was taken ill he weighed 160 pounds. Palmer is a produce dealer living in New York.

Buying a Fan.
Miss Katharine Lee Bates, who spent some months in Spain last year,

declares that the dark-eyed damsels of the fan and lace mantilla are quite as charming as tradition has pictured them. Ignorant they commonly are, their education being of the most meager, but they are not dull. They are quick-witted, high-spirited and affectionate, and are possessed of a grace of speech and manner which rarely deserts them. Nor do they reserve their pretty ways only for the ballroom or the parlor; even ordinary shopping is lifted into a scene of elegant comedy by the manner in which it is transacted. This is how a Spanish senorita bargains for her fan:

"There is nothing sordid about it. Her haggling is a social condensation that at once puts the black-eyed young salesman at her mercy."
"But the fan seems to me the least bit dear, senorita!"
"Ah, senorita! You do not see how beautiful the work is. I am giving it away at six pesetas."
She lifts her eyebrows half-incredulously, all bewitching.
"At five pesetas, senor."
He runs his hand through his black hair in chivalrous distress.
"But the peerless work, senorita! And this other, too. I sacrifice it at four pesetas."
She touches both fans lightly.
"You will let me have the two at seven pesetas, senor?"
Her eyes dance over his confusion. He catches the gleam, laughs back, throws up his hands.
"Buena, senorita! At what you please!"

And the senorita trips away contented with a sharp bargain, although—for Spanish gallantry, even when genuine, goes farther on the lips than otherwise—the price was probably not much more remote from what pleased the smooth-tongued clerk than from what she pleased.

Cool and Methodical.
A lawyer who worthily bears a distinguished name occupies an old-fashioned mansion on the edge of New York. His sister, who lives with him, tells a laughable story, which is reported in Harper's Round Table, illustrating his coolness and love of method.
Recently his sister tiptoed into his room some time after midnight, and told him she thought burglars were in the house. The lawyer put on his dressing-gown, and went downstairs. In the back hall he found a rough-looking man trying to open a door that led into the back yard. The burglar had unlocked the door, and was pulling at it with all his might. The lawyer, seeing the robber's predicament, called to him:
"It does not open that way, you idiot! It slides back!"

Ancient Ones.
The wife of a professional joke-writer had finished cleaning off her husband's desk and putting things to rights before he discovered her. He dropped the volume of sermons in which he had been finding needed relaxation and sprang to his feet. "Good Lord, Martha, have you thrown 'em into the grate?" "Thrown what, Joe?" "My last jokes. Pull 'em out quick." Mrs. Miller sniffed disdainfully. "Pull 'em out yourself. I'm no catspaw to get out your chestnuts for you."—San Francisco Wave.
It is the experience of older married women that a bride is about six weeks in descending from the pedestal to a foot stool.

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