

HAS RARE DISEASE

Woman Has Peculiar Form of Locomotor Ataxia.

BONES BREAK VERY EASILY

Strange Case in a New York Hospital Where Woman Has Affliction Affecting Bones so That Least Movement Causes Them to Break.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—After having suffered for some time from one of the rarest afflictions known to the medical world, Mrs. Catherine O'Neill died Tuesday in the Kings County Hospital. The woman had a peculiar form of locomotor ataxia, which caused the bones through her entire body to become brittle and break as easily as a twig of wood. Several times she snapped them when turning over in bed.

Mrs. O'Neill, who was a native of Ireland and had lived in Brooklyn about twenty-two years, had suffered with the disease for four or five years, but it was only quite recently that her family and friends realized that her condition was likely to end fatally. Physicians noted the peculiar turn her affliction had taken, and advised that she be sent to a hospital.

About the first of October she was taken to the Kings County Hospital, and the house surgeons and physicians at once saw that they had, from a

medical standpoint certainly, an interesting case to deal with. There appeared from the first but little hope for the suffering woman, but everything was done to make her last days as comfortable as possible under the circumstances.

She was visited constantly by her devoted husband, Patrick, and her two little daughters, who brought flowers and delicacies. Mrs. O'Neill was fully aware of the seriousness of her condition, and often spoke of the peculiarity of the affliction that had befallen her. She remained cheerful to the end, however, and caused little trouble to those about her.

One day, about four weeks ago, she turned suddenly in bed while her husband was sitting nearby. The latter was startled by a sharp cry from the woman, and, leaning over her, saw at once that something had happened. A nurse hastily summoned a physician, and the latter made the discovery that Mrs. O'Neill had fractured her right collarbone.

"Simply from the small effort of changing her position in the bed," he said, as he completed his investigation.

About a week later Mrs. O'Neill jumped up suddenly in bed and broke her left arm. The following day, after tossing restlessly around for some time it was found that her right leg was fractured.

Mrs. O'Neill was about forty years old, and up to a few years ago, was a strong healthy woman.

A reporter talked with one of the surgeons. He told the story, but did not wish his name to be mentioned.

"The malady is a rare one," he said. "There have, however, been other cases in this hospital. There was one of a man about a year ago, I think. The disease is one of the forms of locomotor ataxia."

Mrs. O'Neill was buried from her late home, 48 Franklin street, this afternoon interment was made in Calvary Cemetery.

FREE HOSPITAL SYSTEM FOR GREATER NEW YORK

Chain of Municipal Infirmaries to Cost Seventy-Five Millions is Planned.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—Details were made known today of plans for a chain of municipal hospitals, which, when

fully realized, will, it is declared, give New York the greatest system of free treatment for the sick that the world has seen. Mayor McClellan, former Controller Grout, Bird S. Coler, president of the borough of Brooklyn, and Commissioner of Charities Robert W. Hebbard are the leading advocates of the project. An estimate of the total cost is \$75,000,000.

The plan is for the development of a central system of hospitals in the five boroughs, the buildings to be of uniform architecture, the service to be organized on a scheme of unity, and all under the control of one department of the city government.

Events from time to time demonstrate, says those who favor the undertaking, that New York's hospital service in its several branches is not up to the point of efficiency that the second city of the world has a right to expect. For this condition the advocates of the new plan find a reason in the indefiniteness of responsibility.

The Surrender at Sedan.

Count Hatzfeldt, who because of Bismarck's trust in him and his perfect knowledge of French played a prominent part in the surrender of Emperor Napoleon III. after the battle of Sedan, thus describes the arrangements for the surrender in a letter to his wife, which has been published: "It was a solemn moment when General Reille, galloping up the side of the hill, drew up fifty paces from the king in order to dismount and then approached bareheaded to deliver the emperor's letter. The king asked him to wait and withdrew to consult with Bismarck and Moltke. I took advantage of this moment to approach poor Reille to express my sympathy with him. Bismarck then sent for me. Two chairs were placed one on top of the other and I was given pen and paper. The king and Bismarck dictated, and we drew up a draft of the answer. Afterward the king sat down on one of the chairs; Alton held the other as a desk, and I held the ink bottle and dictated to the king the answer that Reille took with him."

Pleasant and Most Effective.

T. J. Chambers, Ed. Vindicator, Liberty, Texas, writes Dec. 25, 1902: "With pleasure and unsolicited by you I bear testimony to the curative power of Ballard's Horehound Syrup. I have used it my family and can cheerfully affirm it is the most effective and best remedy for coughs and colds I have ever used."

Isolation of the Untaught Deaf Mute.

The eye can never take the place of the ear. During the first twelve or fourteen years of normal life, knowledge enters the mind mainly through the ear. The little deaf mute is, therefore, a thousand times more isolated than the child who is born blind. In the domain of morals the uneducated deaf mute's isolation is made dangerous by the fact that the allurement to sin are mostly addressed to the eye, while its restraints, in youth at least, are mainly addressed to the ear. Moreover, the blind child, cultivating his hearing, is only going back to nature—to his forbears, the cave dwellers. Next to the search for food, listening for sounds is, perhaps, man's strongest primal instinct. The deaf learner, dependent solely upon his eyes, has, of course, the first instinct, without the safeguard of the second.—Reader.

The Violin.

It seems strange to think that my violin was once a tree, but I do not know what else could have caught the music that lies within it, waiting for the touch. It must be centuries old, and through all those years it was listening and learning, weaving in with its growth the forest melodies to sing to generations yet unborn.

Wind and wave and song of bird, crash of thunder, drip of rain and mating call—all of these are in the fiber of the violin. And the thousand notes of sea and storm, the music of the waterfall and stream—what wonder that it is so nearly the human voice! There must have been a love story in that forest, for it sings love, love and only love, though I do not remember hearing it until I knew you.—Fuel.

Stones From the Sky.

Every country and every age has its historical, semihistorical or traditional stories concerning immense stones falling from the sky, or, more properly, from space. Levi tells of a whole shower of aerolites which fell on the mountains near Rome in the year 664 B. C. The Arundel marbles (marble tables giving the events of the Grecian history from 1582 B. C. to 624 B. C. in chronological order) give an account of a great stone which "fell down from heaven" at Eogostami about the year 467 B. C. Pity, who died in the year 79 A. D., says that in his time the "great air stone" mentioned in the foregoing was still to be seen on the Hellespont, "and," he quaintly adds, "it is even now of the bigness of a wagon."

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