ODDS AND ENDS.

GERM CELLS OF LIFE.

THEY RETAIN VITALITY EVEN AFTER APPARENT DEATH.

A Startling Theory Showing That Instant Death Is an Impossibility and That We May Be Conscious For Some Time After Dissolution.

"You often meet with the phrase "death was instantaneous," and you believe it, but instant death is impossible.

A professor has been studying the subject, a man of renown in his own world, and he has discovered certain important data proving conclusively that no one can meet with instant death. He works out his theory on the data afforded by the physiology of cells. He states that no one yet has proved the difference between a dead and a live brain cell. When this has been done, then we can more easily ascertain how long a time elapses before the death of a cell takes place.

But, first, what is a cell? To be brief, both plants and animals—including, of course, man—are built up of units, elementary units, which you can only detect under the microscope. Now, each tiny cell is a vital elementary unit. We are nothing but highly developed results of the individual vitality of huge quantities of these fundamental cells.

As this is undeniably so, how is it possible, by simple decapitation, say, to cause instant death in the millions of cells which compose the brain? It is known that brain cells have their own cell life and are liable to live a certain time after they are cut off from outside nutrition without the supply of any blood whatever from the body. The nourishment is supplied inside the cell walls, and it can go on living after being cut off from other resources.

From this argument it is clear to the professor that these millions of cells in the brain must continue to live after death has apparently intervened—that is, when death appears, but only on the outside, to have been instantaneous.

After a man's leg is cut off, or an animal's, you can stimulate the nerves for a long time, but you cannot do it after the cells are dead. You cannot get any response at all.

Electricity has been thought to be the germ of life, but this is a fanciful theory when confronted with the new laws as by research established.

The countless millions of cells of which our bodies are entirely composed contain the germ of life, and it is impossible for these to be visited with an instantaneous unconsciousness.

You can take living cells from a pig's glands, and this same professor will demonstrate to you that after these glands have gone through their preparation the cells are still living.

But the startling fact remains that at present there are no data showing the supposed length of time it takes for the cells of the brain to empty themselves of the germ of consciousness or life, but it is certain that consciousness does not cease immediately after, say, a head has been cut off a body. The belief, however, is that at least four or five minutes must elapse ere death finally steps in to arrest life.

It has been noticed in the case of a decapitated head that the cheeks remain red for some minutes after the severance, a conclusive proof that the cells are living.

The heads of decapitated animals have continued to bite and snap at the air for three or four minutes after severance. This phenomenon is well marked in the head of a tortoise separated from the body. The life of the brain, therefore, must be retained for some time after the head is severed, from the very fact that, though being separated from the trunk, its nutritious blood and gases, taken from the fund stored up in the cells, are in sufficient quantity to carry on life, but for what exact period is unknown.

Do the brain cells die simultaneously? No, because they have their own individual cell life. Our scientific friend also makes the very startling statement that in many diseases the brain cells, although the person to all appearances is dead, may live for three or four hours after supposed death has taken place.

In the case of a healthy person being hanged, seeming death is not instantaneous at all. Organic motion is arrested, but real death is certainly not instantaneous. The brain cells are the last to die, cell life is not really extinct until vigor mortis sets in, which, in the case of a healthy person dying suddenly, is protracted.

Now, when it is known that an ordinary cell lives after being removed from a living body, why, then, cannot the brain cells retain their life when the conditions immediately surrounding them are much the same as during their previous existence?

The head of a chicken was cut off, and after certain stimuli had been made it opened its mouth and gasped five minutes after its head had been decapitated from the body.

The head of a certain animal was cut off and found susceptible to light for many minutes after it was apparently dead. A strong electric light was held in front of the eyes and moved alternately near to and far away from them. The pupils of the eyes followed the light in its movements, expanding and contracting, that is to say, focusing themselves upon the light as it moved backward and forward. It was proved that the animal was capable of smelling by the use of certain pungent odors placed near the nasal organs—and all this because the brain cells were yet living.

Raising Ducks Without Water.

Ducks don't need water to thrive. There are many duck raising plants in this country where thousands of the fowls are bred each year for market and where there is not even a puddle for them to flounder in. One of these farms is credited with an output of 20,000 ducks a year.

A RUNAWAY ICE YACHT.

An Exciting Chase and a Narrow Escape From Death.

Some years ago there was a runaway down at Shelter Island in which a young girl was left in the boat with a gale blowing. She tried to throw the sheet loose, but it was frozen and her fingers were too cold, added to which the sheet had fouled the tiller, and she could not bring the boat up into the wind to stop its way, the sail being so set that the boat continued running right along at a terrific rate of speed.

Occupants of the other boats soon realized the position and made chase, gaining slowly, one boat finally being far in the lead of the others by the time the end of the island was left behind. Right in front lay the end of the ice, broken short by the action of the tide water, and there the breakers rolled in, throwing up the anchor ice, dashing it down, and then retreating, sucking it under the floe and packing it up for another break.

For some time it was a question as to whether the chasing boat would catch up with the girl before she was carried over the edge to certain death. But at last the boats came together for one brief second, the girl was snatched by strong arms to the pursuer's yacht, the sheet was eased off in a flash, and, spinning round in its own length, it was set right before the wind instead of reaching into it, just as the runaway dashed over into the anchor ice.

A short, sharp crack gave notice of the parting of the ice beneath the very runners of the now homeward bound savior, and with a long stagger, which only her speed enabled her to withstand, she dashed across the fast opening crack, safe, to be brought up into the wind at a distance, while the late runaway danced, a wreck, among the broken ice. It was one of the close calls of ice yachting which, thank goodness, very seldom occur!—W. P. Pond in Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

LUCKY DEUCE OF SPADES.

Remarkable Run of Luck, but All For the Other Man.

One by one the old superstitions are being torn from us. People nowadays walk ostentatiously under ladders and suffer no evil consequences. Friday is quite a popular day for the commencement of a long journey, and sitting down 13 at dinner is frequently unattended with untoward results. A deeply rooted superstition among card players is a belief in the lucky properties of the two of spades. The present writer's faith, however, was severely shaken by a phenomenal coincidence which occurred only a few days ago.

Sitting down to a game of whist, he thoroughly shuffled both packs of cards, and happened to notice that the two of spades was the bottom card of one of the packs.

"This ought to bring me luck," he remarked to his friends.

He then took up the second pack, and was astonished to find that the two of spades was also at the bottom of that. Words failed to express his amazement when, in drawing for partners and deal—the cards had been shuffled again—he once more drew the two of spades.

The odds against this triple event occurring must be enormous, but more was to follow. The deal fell to the writer, and the turn up card was the inevitable two of spades!

After this the dealer felt justified in believing he was in for a good evening. As a matter of fact, he lost six rubbers in succession.—London Mail.

Children and Dolls.

Writing in The Contemporary Review, Professor Sully discusses the curious aspects in which children regard dolls. He says: Professor Hall has brought to light some curious preferences of children. He tells us, for example, that, whereas out of 845 children 191 preferred wax dolls, as many as 144 pronounced in favor of rag ones. Odd preferences are sometimes shown with regard to size. A lady writes me that she preferred 4 inch halfpenny dolls because there was so much more to be done with these in the way of putting on wigs made from doormats, inking in eyebrows, etc. On the other hand, another English lady tells me that her childish ambition was the possession of a big doll—"one that would fill my arms and take some of the cuddling that I wanted to bestow and which nobody seemed to want." This girl image is, so far as the uninitiated adult can divine, the true child's doll.

Coalfields of the World.

Geologists estimate the great coalfields of the world in square miles as follows: China, 200,000; United States, east of the Rockies, 190,000; Canada, 65,000; India, 35,500; New South Wales, 24,000; Russia, 20,000, and the United Kingdom, 11,500. There are many deposits in other countries, but their extent is inconsiderable. England's coal area is small; still she for years produced more than any other country. Now the United States is ahead. English coal veins are thin; one only 14 inches wide has been worked 1,200 feet down. On the other hand, there are veins in the Pennsylvania anthracite region 60 feet thick and in the bituminous regions 18 feet thick. Our Appalachian coalfields are the largest known, and alone could supply the whole world for centuries to come.

An Original Oath of Allegiance.

In the old days when the Spanish province of Aragon was a proud and independent monarchy the people used, when choosing their king, the following singular form of election:

"We, the freeborn inhabitants of the ancient kingdom of Aragon, who are equal to you, Don Philip, and something more, elect you to be our king on condition that you preserve to us our rights and privileges. If in this you should fail, we own you for our king no longer."—Harper's Round Table.

JAPANESE MUSIC.

There's Art In It That Cannot Be Analyzed by Occidentals.

To one who never heard it it is impossible to give a definite idea of Japanese music, and to one who hears it for the first time it must either repel or strangely attract, for its fantastic intervals and fractional tones demand a totally new sense of musical appreciation and call into being a new set of musical sensations. It is as if a hitherto closed door between sense and spirit had been suddenly thrown open. One feels that if reincarnation be true, one might through this door alone remember and reconstruct those vanished existences. Only in the tones of their own unguisu, a bird which has but three notes, have I heard anything so occult.

Japanese music is like Japanese art, which, with its unperceived spirit, sense and symbolism, its strange method of brush handling, might seem merely grotesque at first, but which gradually reveals to the initiated eye mysteries within mysteries of artistic form and perception, until presently one finds oneself encompassed by a new art world, where technic is subordinated to feeling and whose finest effects are obtained through the art of omission. As, for instance, in the greatest paintings of Fujiyama, the sacred mountain itself is discovered to be the bare, white, unpainted silk, as if color and line could be but the boundaries and outer confines of pure isolated idea. So in Japanese music, its methods are not ours, its climaxes come in crashes of silence, in sustained and soundless pause, the notes subordinated to a silent something, an inner sense, which, while restraining or even repressing sound, is the very ecstasy of musical sensation.

In vain we attempted to analyze this subtle effect, to reduce it to the terms of our musical consciousness. It defied and eluded us as spirit must always defy and elude sense, and we perforce contented ourselves with following the strange, rounded, isolated notes, sustaining ourselves breathlessly on its wonderful pauses and yielding to the irregular cadenced charm of the singer, whose face, at first so unremarkable, seemed to grow of a shining effulgence as she thus interpreted to us an unknown world.—Washington Star.

IN LEAGUE WITH MAGIC.

Some Heathens Who Did Good Missionary Work at a Pump.

Lobengula, the late king of the Matabele of South Africa, was afraid of Rev. E. Carnegie, an English missionary at Hope Fountain, several miles from Bulawayo. The Matabele warriors, on the other hand, looked with suspicion on the missionary and all his works, but they knew better than to molest the friend of their king.

Time after time in passing the mission house they noticed a force pump at work, supplying water for the family and for irrigating the garden. Not understanding what it was for, their untutored minds concluded it was some sort of magic. It was "intagati," or bewitched, and they watched to see how it was managed that they might turn the white man's magic against himself.

One moonlight night a party of picked warriors repaired to the bank of the stream where the pump was. On trying it they were jubilant to find that two men at either handle could do the trick. Turn and turn about they kept the pump going for two hours, determined that the missionary should have all the magic he wanted and a balance in hand.

Then, exhausted, they went homeward, ignorant of the fact that they had filled the missionary's tank to overflowing. His good wife hoped that a similar supply of "magic" might be furnished every week. — New York Mail and Express.

Artificial Cream.

A cooking teacher tells of a manufactured cream that is worth knowing about in emergencies, when the real article is not to be had. It is made from the whites of two eggs, beaten stiff, with a tablespoonful of sugar and a teaspoonful of cornstarch. Half a cup of cold milk is added by degrees and all beaten together very stiff. A cup of milk is heated over the fire, with a small butter ball melted in it. This is allowed to come just to the boiling point, when it is removed to a cooler part of the stove and the beaten egg mixture added. When it has all thickened very slightly to about the consistency of thick cream, it is taken off and strained and cooled. This may be used as cream for serving with fresh or preserved fruits, but it is needless to add it will not whip.—New York Post.

Literature on a Ferryboat.

During the last seven days the following novels were read on a Hoboken ferryboat by shopgirls on their way to work: "Poor, but Beautiful," "All For Love of a Fair Face," "When His Love Grew Cold," "Mrs. Hathaway's Revenge," "The Story of a Blighted Love," "Risen; or, Back as From the Dead."—New York Commercial Advertiser.

British Navy Salutes.

A salute in the British navy between two ships of equal rank is made by firing an equal number of guns. If the vessels are of unequal rank, the superior fires the fewer rounds. A royal salute consists of (1) in firing 21 great guns, (2) in the officers lowering their sword points and (3) in dipping the colors.

Phillips Brooks once said that "the shortness of life is bound up with its fullness. It is to him who is most active, always thinking, feeling, working, caring for people, that life seems short. Strip a life empty and it will seem long enough."

The finest complexions in the world are said to be in the Bermudas. This is accounted for by the fact that the inhabitants live chiefly on onions.

I have used Ripans Tabules with so much satisfaction that I can cheerfully recommend them. Have been troubled for much three years with what I called bilious attacks coming on regularly once a week. Was told by different physicians that it was caused by bad teeth, of which I had several. I had the teeth extracted, but the attacks continued. I had seen advertisements of Ripans Tabules in all the papers but had no faith in them, but about six weeks since a friend induced me to try them. Have taken but two of the small 5-cent boxes of the Tabules and have had no recurrence of the attacks. Have never given a testimonial for anything before, but the great amount of good which I believe has been done me by Ripans Tabules induces me to add mine to the many testimonials you doubtless have in your possession now. A. T. DeWitt.

I want to inform you, in words of highest praise, of the benefit I have derived from Ripans Tabules. I am a professional nurse and in this profession a clear head is always needed. Ripans Tabules does it. After one of my cases I found myself completely run down. Acting on the advice of Mr. Geo. Bower, Ph. G., 588 Newark Ave., Jersey City, I took Ripans Tabules with grand results. Miss Bessie Wheeman.

Mother was troubled with heartburn and sleeplessness, caused by indigestion, for a good many years. One day she saw a testimonial in the paper indorsing Ripans Tabules. She determined to give them a trial, was greatly relieved by their use and now takes the Tabules regularly. She keeps a few cartons Ripans Tabules in the house and says she will not be without them. The heartburn and sleeplessness have disappeared with the indigestion which was formerly so great a burden for her. Our whole family take the Tabules regularly, especially after a hearty meal. My mother is fifty years of age and is enjoying the best of health and spirits; also eats hearty meals, an impossibility before she took Ripans Tabules. Anton H. Blauken.

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I have been a great sufferer from constipation for over five years. Nothing gave me any relief. My feet and legs and abdomen were bloated so I could not wear shoes on my feet and only a loose dress. I saw Ripans Tabules advertised in our daily paper, bought some and took them as directed. Have taken them about three weeks and there is such a change! I am not constipated any more and I owe it all to Ripans Tabules. I am thirty-seven years old, have no occupation, only my household duties and nursing my sick husband. He has had the dropsy and I am trying Ripans Tabules for him. He feels some better but it will take some time, he has been sick so long. You may use my letter and name as you like. Mrs. Mary Gorman Clarke.

I have been suffering from headaches ever since I was a little girl. I could never ride in a car or go into a crowded place without getting a headache and sick at my stomach. I heard about Ripans Tabules from an aunt of mine who was taking them for catarrh of the stomach. She had found such relief from their use she advised me to take them too, and I have been doing so since last October, and will say they have completely cured my headaches. I am twenty-nine years old. You are welcome to use this testimonial. Mrs. J. Brookmyre.

My seven-year-old boy suffered with pains in his head, constipation and complained of his stomach. He could not eat like children of his age do and what he did eat did not agree with him. He was thin and of a saffron color. Reading some of the testimonials in favor of Ripans Tabules, I tried them. Ripans Tabules not only relieved but actually cured my youngster, the headaches have disappeared, bowels are in good condition and he never complains of his stomach. He is now a red, chubby-faced boy. This wonderful change I attribute to Ripans Tabules. I am satisfied that they will benefit any one (from the cradle to old age) if taken according to directions. E. W. Price.

A new style packet containing TEN RIPANS TABULES packed in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—FOR FIVE CENTS. This low-priced sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (120 tabules) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (TEN TABULES) will be sent for five cents. RIPANS TABULES may also be had of some grocers, general storekeepers, news agents and at some liquor stores and barber shops. They banish pain, induce sleep and prolong life. One gives relief.

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A Foreign Writer's Burden.

"I find your political terms very puzzling," remarked the foreigner who was trying to gather material for a book on American institutions. "For example, to rotate means to move in a circle. A ring also means a circle. Now I am told that when a ring controls your offices they don't rotate any more."—Chicago Tribune.

A European statistician has discovered that only 55 per cent of the blonds marry, while 79 per cent of their brunette sisters engage in matrimony.

Forty tons of rust have been taken out of the Menai iron tubular bridge at one cleaning.

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