TRUE GHOST STORIES.

In 1870, '71 and '72, in a house on * Columbia heights, Brooklyn, there lived lour ladies, all of them writers, and all but one of them (Miss Rebecca W. Easterbrooks, an author of considerable promise, who died in 1873) now alive. Their names are Miss Caroline B. Le Ross, teacher of elocution at Vassar college; Mrs. M. F. Butts, a well-known writer and journalist, who resides at Westerly, R. I., and Mrs. Eleanor Ames, better known to the literary world as "Eleanor Kirk." The ladies are willing to attest to the truthfulness of the following narrative:

It was a pleasant brown stone, cost-ly-furnished abode, bearing every expeace and comfort. There was nothing to distinguish it from other houses on Columbia heights, save that its inmates were all bread-winners, and so occupied the day and evening as to leave very little time for the claims of society. Three of them were contributors to the New York daily newsnot entertain much: the other ladies dress while the natural hair on one's veek than at any time in the history in this aristocratic locality entertain- head was being combed. in this aristocratic locality entertained more and did not work. But there was a greater difference between them, one so puzzling, so entirely off the com- back hair on the dressing case for a mon, so exciting, so opposed to all known laws, as to furnish a constant her room, with her door bolted. "I theme of speculation, and persistently turned around," she said, "and as I to worry and alarm the members of did so immediately bethought myself the household. This house on Columbia heights was even a more wonder- and the thing had gone. ful place than that of John Wesley, or Phelps. Our four literary feminine was no time for it.

Two of the ladies, sisters, occupied the front alcove room on the second story, and a third occupied the back room on the same floor. The performance opened one night about 12 o'clock, soon after they had moved into the house, with the sound of shuffling footsteps in the rooms. A light was struck and the noise ceased. The doors leading to the hall were locked, and no intruder was visible. The gas was turned down again and silence had reigned for a few moments, when the same singular shuffling was distinctly heard, accompanied by a new sound, like the dragging of a stiff silken skirt on the carpet. This was parts of the rooms. Sometimes on the doors, and again on the floor and With fear and trembling the gas was again turned up, and with the same result as before. "Nothing nornobody anywhere." A midnight conference was held, and when the ladies full blast. All was quiet, but upon waking in the morning a strange sight met their astonished eyes. Chairs were but was sometimes successful. turned upside down, bureaus were disand hair receivers were strewn about ments, which had been carefully arranged for the morning, together with the slippers and stockings—in fact, all lt was in those days that the ladies simply wait until nature asserts it- drink. Before entering upon the downgether, that it was almost impossible to separate them.

This was a house-warming with a vengeance, and the quartette of breadwinners met at the breakfast table is a state of wonder and nervous anxiety impossible to describe. A careful inquiry as to the kind of night that had been passed by the other members of the family elicited nothing unusual. On this occasion no one had been disturbed but the ladies on the second floor and the occupants of the adjacent houses, who called in to ascertain the cause of it. These exercises proved only to be an overture; for during the whole year spent in the house there was literally no rest from these strange phenomena. About three nights in a week the same noises were heard on the second floor, with the same aggravating mixing up of clothes and overturning of turniture.

One day about the 1st of June the lady of the house, returning from her New York office, rang the door bell. The door was immediately opened—indeed, quicker than a flash—by a tall, strange woman in black. She wore a large cameo at her neck, and on her head a three-cornered piece of lace, trimmed with lavender bows. There was nothing in the least ghostly about her appearance with the exception of the singular way in which she backed from the vestibule into the parlor.

Wondering who this woman could be who had taken upon herself the office of door-opener, the bread-winner followed her instantly into the parlor. Nobody there. Up stairs, down stairs, in every nook, closet and crevice the seeker hunted and peered without the least trace of a human or spiritual being. In short, there was not a person in the house save she who had inst entered. Even the servant, finding that she needed some article for dinner, had locked the doors and gone out to get it. This was the first and last visible appearance of this parti-

cular spook upon the scene. But afterward it was impossible to tip at one end in such a manner as to was ever destroyed, and no one was ever hurt in these out-of-the-way per-

A guest at the table was the signal

bolted? Who rang the belle and banged the doors? Who so persistently mixed

up the wearing apparel? The most aggravating feature of the whole remarkable business was the stealing or the hiding of valuable articles, for the invisible thief or thieves always returned the things that were taken. One was never certain that an article of dress could be found unless it was on the body of the owner. Cloaks, shawls, dresses, hats, gloves, in broad day-light, under one's very eyes, would suddenly disappear, and no amount of hunting would bring them to light. So it came to pass that the ladies were frequently obliged to borrow clothes from each other, and neither knew in the morning what description of dry goods would be worn ternal and internal indication of in the afternoon. The invisible prespeace and comfort. There was ences were especially partial to black hair. It was never disturbed on the head, but on the dressing case or when hung over a gas fixture, or when lying in a drawer, it was certain to walk off. Indeed the only way to in-sure the presence of the necessary black hair was to keep it pinned in papers. These ladies worked and did one's pocket, or buttoned in one's head was being combed.

One morning one of the ladies forgot to be cautious, and left her valuable little suffering among them during the moment. She was entirely alone in of the switch. I turned back again

A pair of six and a half gloves could of the grandfather of Elizabeth Stuart | be worn by a five hand; and a cloak for a small person could be stretched bread-winners displayed no seeking af- to do service for a larger one, but a ter the supernatural, and had there black switch could hardly be worn on been inclination for such seeking there a blonde head. In other words, it was not an easy matter to borrow one.

To go to New York to one's place of business minus a switch was hard, but this bread-winner was game, and, moreover furiously angry. She made up her mind that she would not be bluffed. In place of the good sized and | ip. The medicines were diluted with symmetrical French twist which usually adorned her intellectual skull was a human palate to desct their presence, nondescript bunch that gave it a but the puma discovered it at the first strange ancient appearance. "For mercy's sake," she remarked to her friends as she walked out of the house, with flashing eyes and a scarlet face, "do let's move away from this horrible place. I have borne everything before this. I have worn other folks clothes, I have been out of this house followed by loud knockings in different many a time with old boots on, and once I went to report Beecher with one boot on of my own and one shoe the window panes, and winding up of somebody else's, but to have to go after a brief illness, of pneumonia. with a whack, a crash, and a bang. to New York without my back hair is a little too much."

Such wails were constant. Occasionally coaxing and entreaty would avail, on of the brain. I made a post-morbut only occasionally. To beg some tem examination of his body, and invisible power to return the boots or sould find no other cause of death. again retired the gas was left burning the hat or the dress which were to be the chimpanzee was also severely afworn on a business engagement was lected by the change. She caught a rather an uncanny piece of business,

mantled, cushions and mats, hair-pins literally fired at the owner's head. They would come from the corner of the floor, and, worse than all, the gar- the room or from the ceiling, but how or by whom was an impenetrable

the paraphernalia of three wardrobes - regularly reported the sermons of self, and then tempt her returning ap-were so mixed up and churned to-Henry Ward Beecher. They sat to- petite with any little delicacy she ey derived from his land speculations gether at a small table immediately in might crave. At one time she went front of the pulpit. One morning, when busy with their work, very distinct raps were heard upon the table, continuing for five minutes or more, when the table began to lurch and pitch about, and finally slammed itself violently against the platform.

The bread-winning reporters were forced to finish their work on hymn tlly rely on the ordinary veterinary

books in their laps. At the evening service the table was

like any other well-behaved piece of furniture. Not a sound was heard. But on the following Sunday morning it was again alive and full of mischief. As soon as the first demonstration occurred the bread-winners very quietly removed their work to their laps

But this made no difference. Without a hand near it this animated piece of wood went through its wonderful gyrations, and with as much apparent method as a soldier at drill. An unusually stirring remark from the desk was sure to be immediately appreciated and applauded. Up and down, backward and forward, the lively table would jump and tilt, striking occasionally against the platform, with a series of whacks that could be

heard all over the church. These manifestations continued until they attracted as much attention as the minister. This was a little too much publicity for the bread-winners, and the table was finally relegated to privacy, and the backs of hymnbooks were used in place of the misbehaved piece of furniture.

As in the case of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, the half has not been told; but these incidents are vouched by the bread-winners to be literally

Curing Soft Corns.

The New York Tribune has a variety of cures-take your choice:

C. S. says: "Split a good moist raipartake of a meal in peace. It was a sin, put it on the corn. This has cured common proceeding for the table to many within my knowledge." J. M. P. says: "Apply pulverized chalk and send the dishes in a heap together, P. says: "Apply pulverized chark and without respect for gravy boats, but- that will cure the trouble." M. C. B. ter dishes, soup tureens or coffee pots, says: "Bind on a slice of lemon and although, strangely enough, nothing persist in this treatment, which will soon effect a cure." R. T. R., says; Soak the feet two or three times a will refuse to touch their food. Of week in very warm water, putting a bit course, it is often necessary to throw for a grand demonstration. The most of fresh cotton each time between the awful knocks would be heard under toes, saturated with olive oil. Renew his or her plate, the table would lurch, the oil daily. This application will creak and dance about like something cure hard corns on the toes. Cut a alive, much to the mortification of the hole to fit the corn in a piece of soft bread-winners, each of whom had a buckskin, or several thicknesses of cot-deep seated abhorrence to being classed among spiritualists. Not oftener. In a week or more the core one of them was even credulous. can be pulled out, not cut." F. S. From first to last every instance says: "Saturate a piece of cotton cloth was carefully weighed and sifted, with turpentine and wrap it around and the supernatural was the last theo the toe when you go to bed. Repeat ry to obtain. But who tipped over the tables? Who dragged stiff silken fabries over the floor in the dead of the night when exits were carefully locked and

Curing Wild Beasts.

Visitors to the Zoological Garden luring the last week have been struck with the general air of debility among nost of the animals. Nearly all of hem either moved about listlessly or else moped in corners and refused to nove at all. The chimpanzee kept er blanket tightly drawn around her houlders all through the week, and no lainty could tempt her to leave her avorite corner. Even the monkeys vere less clamorous for favors and the oothsome peanut palled on their usuilly insatiable appetite. The larger mimals, and especially the carnivora, suffered even more than the little aninals. The lions and leopards stopped their ceaseless promenade and lay all lay long with their noses between their paws watching events through their ialf-open eyelids. Superintendent Brown explained this state of apathy among the animals. "There, has been more sickness

among the animals during the past y to the rule, there was very reated spell, but as soon as the breakip came, and the mercury took such a errible tumble, nearly every animal elt the effect of the change, and almost a majority of them were taken sick. The camels were the greatest sufferers. Every one in the garden was prostrated with dyspepsia and a general derangenent of the alimentary canal. One of hem is still very ill, and it is not expected that he will recover. Three or our of the earnivora are sick and one of the pumas were very ill with cholera morbus. He refused to take any sourishment, and the only thing he could be induced to take was an occasional swallow of water. We tried 'or two days to give him a dose of bismuth and opium, but we had to give it water until it was impossible for the sniff and refused to touch it. He lidn't eat a morsel for five days, but he is coming around all right now. At last he consented to eat a nicely proiled spring chicken, and I think he will be himself again in a few days. Another puma was greatly prostrated, and I am afraid he is too old to rally.

Bennett's wallaby, a variety of the kangaroo, caught a severe cold at the time of the sudden change and died, One of the sea lions was prostrated by the heat just before the cold wave came, and probably died of congestsold in her head and refused to eat anything except an occasional piece of At these times the articles would be banana or orange. We have had her for three years, and this is only the second time that she has been ill. three weeks without tasting a morsel, except a few pieces of fruit, but when appetite returned she ate like a Many of the small animals are seriously indisposed, but most of them are simply suffering with disordered

stomachs and loss of appetite. "In caring for sick animals we generreatment. We use very little medizine, beyond an occasional tonic, astringent, or laxative. In many cases administering of medicines works more harm than good. I and our best reliance to bein careful watching and dieting. Aside from the narm the medicines might do a wild animal there are other considerations against administering them that are much more important. In the first place it is hard to tell what is the matter with a wild animal when it is simply off its feed. It is not practicable to cel its pulse, listen to the beating of his heart, and do various other things usual in diagnosing a case in a human

"It is generally a wild guess in determining what ails a wild beast, When you have decided what ails it, however, the next question is, 'What shall I give it?' Drugs have a different effect on different animals. A dose that would kill one animal will have no effect on another. But, even if you know what to give it, the next and most serious question arises, 'How

shall I administer the medicine?' "The greatest difficulty, of course, is met with in giving medicine to the larger animals. The process is always attended with danger, and in many instances the patient dies either from fright or shock to its nervous system. In order to administer a dose of medicine to a wild beast it is necessary to bind it down with ropes, and when it is firmly secured drench it in the way practiced in dosing horses. This treatnent always results in a severe shock to the animal's nerves and frequently produces death. A wild animal will not permit itself to be handled like a domesticated animal. It will always ash itself into a fury, and in this lies the danger of overcoming it by rough measures; and still this is the only way

that it can be dosed. Their sense of taste is so perfectly fleveloped that they can detect any oreign substance on the instant and animals for the purpose of cutting their claws or paring their hoofs or making any surgical operation, but we always employ a great deal of care

in securing the animal. "Recently we had occasion to throw a zebra, and it took seven men to accomplish it without injury *o the animal. A full-grown camel can kick as hard as a whole train of government mules. Many animals we can't handle at all. For instance, you can't lasso a polar bear, as his neck and ankles are larger than his head or feet, and the rope would naturally slip off as fast as you could slip it on. The elephant is the hardest beast to

throw, but it is less subject to nervous shock than the other wild animals. -Philadelphia Times.

THE CURSE OF DRINK.

The Inventor of a Noted Fire-Extinguisher a Pauper.

Recently the almshouse has num-

pered among its inmates an old, grayheaded man, of about 68 years of age, appearently in the last stages of chronic alcoholism, and presenting in every respect the appearance of complete physical, if not mental, decrepitude. Yet, if the story told by the aged pauper be true, he has in times past occupied a far different position, his name being familiar throughout the ength and breath of the United States as that of the inventor of the Babcock fire-extinguisher. To an interviewer who visited him at the alms nouse he gave a sketch of his life history, beginning with his birth at Rochester, N. Y., in 1817, from which place, at the age of 5, he removed with his parents to Mount Vernon, Iowa, and ater to Mansfield in the same state. At the age of 21 he graduated from the Pennsylvania University of Medicine, but did not practice, entering instead into the mercantile business, at first in partnership with his father at Indianapolis, Ind., later on his own account in Dayton, O. He was very successful for eight years, but in 1854 his good fortune deserted him, and after suffering a number of reverses he went into liquidation. Going to New York, he secured a position as a dry goods clerk and remained there two years, during which time he married. Going back to Indianapolis, he purchased with his savings an interest in his father's business, and for six years was quite successful. At the end of this time reverses again assailed him and heretired from business with but \$2,000. While in Indianapolis, however, in

1860, he had patented the fire-extin-guisher, which grew out of his experiments in chemistry, for which he always had a taste, and after his failure he endeavored to do something in the way of disposing of it, while acting as traveling agent for some Cincinnati tobacco and liquor firm, but met at first with but poor success. However, about a year later, he leased the right to manufacture and sell the extinguisher to Peabody & Co., of Chicago, for five years at \$5,000 a year, and im- Paid for Hides and Pelts. mediately thereafter came to San Francisco. He ran the old Buckeye hotel, on Market street, for a while, practicing medicine also, but, being ourned out, removed first to Oakand and afterward to Peta luma where he kept a store for a while, finally failing. He retrieved himself by successfully speculating in Monterey lands with his annuity, and about this time lost his wife, which bereavement immediately preceded the first step of his downward career, since it led him WINES, to try and drown hissorrows in drink. During these spells of sickness we treat | Having once entered upon the path of her the same as any human invalid. | vice, he pursued it to the end, spendhe purchased farms in Yamhill county. Oregon, for his daughter and each of his three sons, where, he believes, they are all now living in prosperous circumstances, though shame has prevented him from applying to them of late for assistance. He was first sent. to the almshouse three years ago, remaining for six months, and being again sent out in July of last year. A. F. Benson, Between times he has wandered about the country, and the writer remembers seeing him in 1883, wandering about the streets of Santa Rosa, Sonoma county, in the lowest stages of drunken pauperism, his arrest for vagrancy, cialty. etc., being a regular weekly occurence for some months .- San Francisco Call.

The Power of Morphine.

From the Boston Post. A storekeeper in a certain New Hampshire town has for some days. been on the verge of having 'em, and HENRY STRIKER, - PROPRIETOR. has been letting up on whisky and taking morphine powders. The other night some of the boys killed a rattlesnake and caught two or three striped in and sample it. snakes, a couple of frogs, a turtle or two, and about dusk set them in front of the store. Then the store keeper was quietly inveigled to the door and led into conversation. Presently his eye alighted on one of the snakes. Looking about he saw another. But he kept on with the conversation. Then a turtle caught his eye, and then a frog, and then another snake. But he never weakened a bit till he saw the rattler twined around a lamp-post. That settled him. "You must excuse me a minute," he said, and he went into the store and took a morphine powder. While he was gone the boys

'Morphine's a great thing, isn't it?" From the Town Records of Sa-

took the snakes away. He came back,

took a satisfied look around, and said,

lem, Mass. The town records of Salem contain some quaint and curious entries, as J. M. Jounson, that in July, 1644, "that twoe be appointed every Lord's day to walk forth in time of God's worshippe, to take notice of such as either lye about AIII the meeting-house or that lye at home or in the fields, and to take account of such and present them to the mag-istrate." In 1676: "Three constables are to be at the three great doors of the meeting house, and allow none to go out until the exercises are finish. BEEF, PORK, VEAL, MUTTON, SAUed. One constable is to keep the dogs out of the meeting house." In 1694: "To keep people from sleeping in satvice time a man was appointed that wholly tended with a short stubbed stick, having at one end a knob and at the other a foxtail, with which he would stroke the women's faces that were drowsy and with the other would knock unruly dogs and men who were asleep."-Correspondence N. Y. Evan-

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