DR. TANNER'S IDEAS.

HE TALKS OF PREMATURE BURIAL AND SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

The Dead in This Country Are Buried in Criminal Haste—The Subtle Principle of Life—The Doctor Convinced That Man Can Hibernate.

Eight years have gone since Dr. H. S. Tanner performed his wonderful feat of fasting forty days and nights in Clarendon hall, in New York city. For sixteen days he touched neither water nor food. After the sixteenth day he began to drink water, and subsisted on this alone during the remaining twenty-four days of his fast. The public has not heard much of the plucky little doctor for the last few years, but not long ago he turned up in Chicago, bright and chipper, a splendid specimen of a man in perfect health, and with a rotundity of form indicative rather of the bon vivant than of a man who eats only two meals a day in summer and only one in winter.

"Where have you been keeping yourself, doctor?" asked a reporter, after friendly greetings had been exchanged.

"I have just returned from New Mexico, where I have been for nearly four years, pursuing certain investigations of a scientific nature. I am much interested in the subject of suspended animation or counterfeit death. I am convinced that a far greater percentage of people are buried alive than even those who have ever given the matter much thought would be willing to believe. In no country in the world are the dead buried with such criminal haste, I may say, as in the United States. I have been looking into this subject more or less for the last twenty-five years, and the evidence I have accumulated is startling. I tell you, it is murder, horrible murder, and it is high time some agitation was started for the purpose of securing needed legislation on the subject of the burial of the dead.

THE MOVEMENT IN EUROPE.

"The principle of life is so subtle," continued the doctor, "that men with all his science knows nothing about it; and the only safeguard against the awful crime of burying alive those we love lies in the precautions that are taken against committing their bodies to the tomb before decomposition has set in. That is the only unmistakable sign that death has finally taken place. The people of Holland were among the first to awaken to the importance of this subject, and in 1761 a society was organized in Amsterdam for the purpose of looking into cases where death seemed counterfeit rather than real. In less than four years they had resuscitated—saved from entombment alive—no less than 150 persons. In 1768 the authorities at Milan and Venice, and those at Hamburg, followed the example set by Holland, and a little later similar societies were formed at London, Paris and Glasgow. As a result of the work and investigations of these societies, among the members of which were some of the foremost scientists of the times, it has been proved that in a great number of cases where every known test had been applied and preparations made for the burial the subjects had recovered. These experiences led Professor Morine, of the University of Rome, to offer a prize of 1,500 francs for the best essay on apparent death; and the Marquis d'Ouche left 20,000 francs to be used in discovering the best means that could be applied in detecting the counterfeit of death. And so in all countries statistics collated on this subject are startling, as revealing the danger of premature burial."

"Now don't you think," asked the doctor, "that this is a subject that people should discuss, should be waked up about?"

"What remedy have you to offer, doctor?"

"Simply this: I hold—and it certainly cannot be successfully contradicted—that the setting in of decomposition is the only certain sign of death. In the absence of this burial should be delayed weeks and months, if necessary, for so long as there is no decay life may hang by a feeble thread, and, by that subtleness of which I have already spoken, the recovery be spontaneous.

THE DOCTOR WILL HIBERNATE.

"Another discovery that I have made," said the doctor, "is that hibernating animals do not use their lungs during the period of hibernation. For several years I have been studying the habits of this class of animals, and, do you know, I am about convinced that man can hibernate"——

Here the reporter must have looked the incredulity he felt, for the doctor hastened to explain: "Take the bear for example; its organs of respiration are the same as man's, and it hibernates for months without food or drink. I have also been studying the philosophy of the adepts who used to be able to go into the death trance at will. Their preparation for this was long fasting, and the trance condition following was, in my opinion, a season of hibernation. I am studying now with a view of making some experiments in this line, and the time may come when I will permit myself to be sealed up in an air tight coffin and laid away until such time as I shall designate for it to be opened."

"But, doctor, you will not expect to come out of a test like that alive, will you?"

"Yes, indeed," was the earnest reply. "I have twice been near the portals of the tomb in my studies of this subject of life principle and of suspended animation, and I firmly believe I can go still nearer—that I can to all outward appearances be dead, and, remaining that way for a length of time, can still come back a living witness of the truth of my theories and investigations."

Speaking of his fast, he said: "The fact is, with most people the body rules the mind, while the reverse should be the case—the mind should control the body. Appetite, and it may be a depraved one, clamors for this or that desired article, and people rush off to gratify it. When I began my forty days' fasting I said to my stomach: 'Here, old fellow, I have a job for you. I want you to take a good long rest, and I want no grumbling about it.' That settled it. At 10 o'clock of the last day of my fast, when I had only two hours to go, a little child that was in the room where I was thrust a ripe peach under my nose. If Adam was tempted as I was then I do not wonder that he fell. I had so little longer to go without eating that I relaxed my will power, and truly my greatest sufferings were during the last two hours of my fast."—Chicago Tribune.

Not a Success.

Women have tried to run a restaurant in New York for women time out of mind, but usually made a failure. Customers declare stinginess, absurd rules and general mismanagement as the reasons.—Detroit Free Press.

Three Rules for Walking.

This remark of the doctor's brought to my mind the case of Ware, the intercollegiate amateur. I remember a talk I once had with him. We were at the same hotel and I asked him to give me a rule for walking.

"There are three rules," he said. "In ordinary walking the arms should be allowed to swing naturally, and in this way the whole body is exercised and invigorated. In fast walking this movement of the arms is correspondingly increased and greatly facilitates the speed and comfort of the walker. Fast walking is universally recognized as one of the principal branches of athletics, but no sport engenders so much controversy or is so unsatisfactory to its votaries. It is, of course, an artificial gait, and therefore requires a judge, who is usually a superannuated walker, with decided ideas on the subject. If these judges could only be brought to believe that as no two men are alike, so no two have an exactly similar style in walking and that a walk may be fair and yet differ widely from their own ideal, walking would assume the rank in athletics to which it is entitled, but 'to errs human,' and a man may train conscientiously and honestly, endeavoring to cultivate an irreproachable style, only to be disqualified in his first race. I have often heard men highly praised by competent judges of walking, whom equally good judges had pronounced incapable of fair walking; in fact, in no other sport is there room for such wide variance of opinion among presumedly honest and intelligent men.

"The fundamental principle of fair walking is that one foot must be on the ground all the time; this is imperative, as can easily be demonstrated by trial. A violation of this rule must result in a run. Another idea on which judges should lay great stress is that the knees must not be bent when the foot strike the ground, and remain rigid until after they leave it. This is absolutely necessary in fast walking, although a man can walk fairly with his knees bent if he tries to, but nothing can be more awkward or unnatural. This rule necessitates a third, which is that the heel of the forward foot strikes the ground simultaneously as the toe of the rear foot leaves it. This gives rise to the popular expression, 'heel and toe walking.' Any one who observes these rules will walk fairly."—D. J. McGrath in Boston Globe.

There is in Lake county, Mich., a co-operative telegraph line, which began by two farmers connecting their houses with a wire, and which has extended, until now it has sixty-five miles of wire and ninety offices, two-thirds of which are in farmhouses and the others in stores where the farmers trade.

An atmospheric phenomenon was witnessed in the English channel lately. The atmosphere rarified to the extent that objects thirty and forty miles distant could be discerned by the naked eye with remarkable distinctness. Almost every prominent object could be picked out along the French coast.

THE SPECIAL OFFER

of THE YOUTH'S COMPANION, of Boston, Mass., which we published last week, should be noticed by our readers, as the opportunity comes but once a year. Any new subscriber to THE COMPANION who will send $1.75 at once, can have the paper free to January 1, 1889, and for a full year from that date. This offer includes four holiday numbers, for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and Easter, all the Illustrated Weekly Supplements, and the Annual Premium List, with 500 illustrations. Really a $2.50 paper for only $1.75 a year.

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that catarrh will in time wear out. The theory is false. Men try to believe it because it would be pleasant if true, but it is not, as all know. Do not let an acute attack of cold in the head remain unsubdued. It is liable to develop into catarrh. You can rid yourself of the cold and avoid all chance of catarrh by using Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. If already afflicted rid yourself of the troublesome disease speedily by the same means. At all druggists.

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A VALUABLE MEDICAL TREATISE.

The edition for 1889 of the sterling Medical Annual, known as Hostetter's Almanac, is now ready, and may be obtained, free of cost, of druggists and general country dealers in all parts of the United States, Mexico, and indeed in every civilized portion of the Western Hemisphere. The Almanac has been issued regularly at the commencement of every year for over one-fourth of a century. It combines, with the soundest practical advice for the preservation and restoration of health, a large amount of interesting and amusing light reading, and the calendar, astronomical calculations, chronological items, etc., are prepared with great care, and will be found entirely accurate. The issue of Hostetter's Almanac for 1889 will probably be the largest edition of a medical work ever published in any country. The proprietors, Messrs. Hostetter & Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., on receipt of a two cent stamp, will forward a copy by mail to any person who cannot procure one in his neighborhood.

If we are even in doubt what to do, it is a good rule to ask ourselves what we shall wish on the morrow that we had done.

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In Japan the old-school physicians are permitted to wear only wooden swords. This is a gently sarcastic way of expressing the opinion that they kill enough people without using weapons. But the druggist who introduced Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery into the Empire carries a fine steel blade. It was found that all who tried this wonderful remedy for coughs, colds, consumptive tendencies, blood, skin and liver troubles, were, without exception, greatly benefitted. The Mikado himself is said to have "toned up" his system by its use, and the importer was therefore permitted the exceptional honor of wearing the sword of the nobility.

Let him who regrets the loss of time make proper use of that which is to come in the future.—O'Connell.

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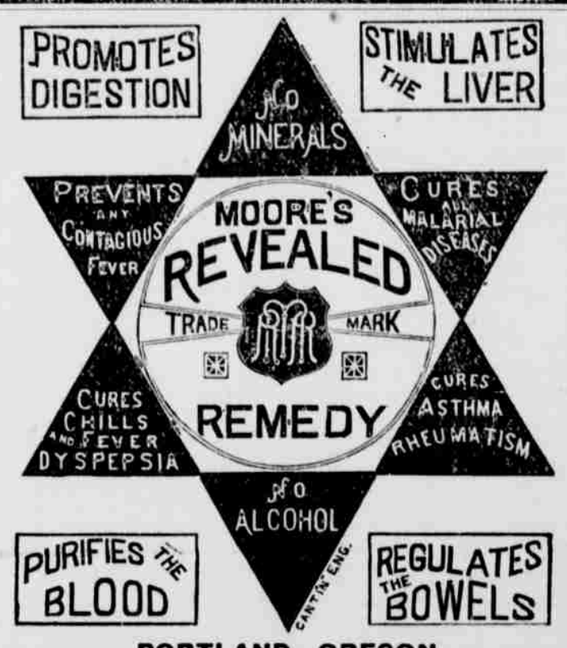

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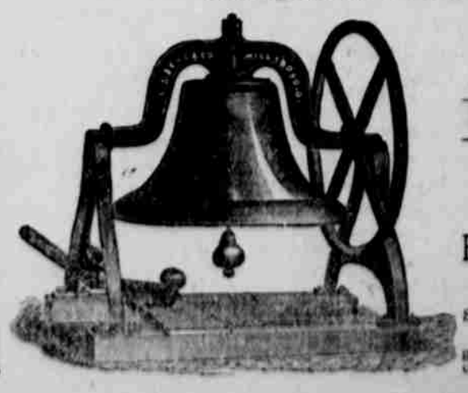

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