

THE PREY OF DREAMS

Persons Often Obsessed by Hallucinations and Nightmares.

QUEER DREAMLAND DRAMAS.

Visions in Sleep That Have Driven Their Victims to Madness—Odd Cases Cited From the Notebook of a Specialist in Mental Diseases.

"Dreams, dreams, dreams!" began the specialist in mental diseases gloomily. "Dreams have sent me many a melancholy patient."

"I was early impressed with the analogies presented by dreams to insanity, but some years ago I remember this impression was strengthened by an incident which I can never forget. A young man consulted me about a trifling mental ailment. I dealt with his case in the ordinary way, and I was pleased to notice he quickly improved. Some weeks after I had told him he was quite recovered, however, he returned, looking an awful wreck, and, fighting hard to keep the tears back, he begged me to help him. He had become a victim of nightmare."

"Here you are," he whispered nervously, presenting a sheet of paper into my hand. "Here you are. Some of the things I see."

"Sketches on the slip were skeletons, crossbones, a gallows and a coffin."

"And you really see these things?" I inquired carefully.

"See them?" he replied. "See them? Why, I feel them! Feel them! Feel the rope! Smell the coffin!"

"And the poor fellow clutched at his throat in real agony."

"I did my best for him, but he became worse. The last time he called upon me he whispered in my ear that he had been duping me; that he was the man wanted for the B. murder. Just as I feared, nightmare had shattered his reason."

"He went away, and I never saw him again. The murder of B. was explained, but it was not my former patient's name I read in the accounts of the execution. I have every reason for believing that he ended his nightmare in suicide."

"Such are the instances that stud the mental physician's book of dreams. One of my earliest patients was a young man who labored under the delusion, the result of a repeated dream, that he had suddenly come into a large fortune."

"I am not surprised, doctor," he said. "I am not surprised. I am destined to all important positions, and very naturally the Providence which demands that I serve the state has come to my aid with the means I shall find necessary."

"Then to my astonishment, he informed me that in order to give the proper touch of dignity to his exalted state he had ordered a number of motor cars and horses and carriages and was negotiating for the purchase of a large residence, which a leading firm of house furnishers was to fit out in lavish style."

"I must do these things, you know," he added. "I must."

"Having uttered these words, I recall, he drifted to other subjects and conversed as rationally as any one."

"It was a case in which I took a special interest. The young man had a good face. He was a favorite, I found, with his employers, and when he expressed regret at having to leave them consequent upon his imaginary good fortune his look of sorrow was something to remember. I told his employers so and discovered that the regard was mutual. They closed their eyes to his strange fancies, accepted his notice in gloomy silence, afterward complimenting him on his good luck, predicted for him a great future, and—I was doing my best."

"In the end, I am glad to say, I was successful. I found that the young man had actually given out the orders enumerated to me, but these I easily countermanded. The dreaming and the delusion ended when I induced my patient to go to reside in another district."

"He never referred to his visionary fortune again. It passed away from him like the phantom that it was and was forgotten. Indeed, very likely were you to speak of it now he would laugh in his natural quick, business-like way and sarcastically request you to explain the lamentable condition of your mind to the person he does not remember—myself."

"I had scarcely finished with this case, strangely enough, when another of dreamland's dramas came before my notice. Late one night it was the end of an exceptionally busy day. There was a violent ringing at my bell, and a moment later a man burst excitedly into my room and begged me to accompany him to his home."

"Strangest thing in the world!" he jerked. "My wife it is. First she is covering the baby with kisses; next she is wanting to kill it. Woke up with a scream and wanted to put the infant out of its misery, and it wasn't in misery at all!"

"I smiled and accompanied the man to his home. It was not an extraordinary thing for an insane woman to do, and this I remarked to the husband, who at once replied:

"But she is sane as you or I."

"And I smiled again. This horror of insanity in one's family is with us always. The man was, however, partly right; his wife was simply another victim of nightmare. The previous evening she had visited the local theater, and, being very much impressed with the melodrama she had seen there, it had affected her sleep."

"She dreamed that her baby was being killed and eventually found the room and gained an entrance to it."

"Where is it? The woman cried. 'Where is it?'"

"Where is what?" asked the sergeant."

"Then, with an agonized 'Oh!' she threw her arms into the air and fell down unconscious. 'It' was her baby, and she had thrown it through the window."

"The woman, who ordinarily was quite sane, had been dreaming that the house was on fire. So vivid was the vision that when she awoke she thought she could smell the burning."

and hear the crackling of the flames. Hastily raising the bedroom window, she seized her youngest child, and, calling out to the imaginary crowd below to catch it, she threw it down to the street."

"Not the least remarkable circumstance in this case was the strange statement made by the police court magistrate during the subsequent investigation. He said he considered that it would be a most dangerous doctrine to lay down that because a person was dreaming while committing an offense he or she was not responsible for the act."

"At the subsequent trial, however, the judge viewed the matter more mercifully. If the prisoner, he said, really did this with the idea that it was the best means of insuring the safety of her child, the jury would be justified in concluding she was not guilty. And the jury very properly declined to convict."

"A frequent delusion, particularly among women and girls, is that they are possessed by devils or witches, and invariably the delusion comes of dreaming."—Baltimore Sun.

HAPPENINGS IN OREGON

The Ovi drugstore, at Huntington owned by Mack Bros., was broken into last week and the safe robbed of its contents, amounting to about \$50.

The prune crop of Linn county is reported to be injured by frost and it is said only about half a crop will be the result.

The First National Bank of Lebanon, Oregon, has been authorized to begin business with \$50,000 capital. P. M. Scroggin is president, S. F. Bach, vice-president and Seymour Washburn, cashier.

The largest walnut orchard in the state is to be planted by an Albany man in the hills of Lincoln county. M. C. Gittings of Albany is preparing to set out 320 acres.

While gazing at a cliff of basalt rock in the yards of the O. R. & N., at the Dalles, last week, W. Baumgart was struck by a falling boulder which suddenly and without warning fell from the cliff, with the result that his leg was broken.

Preparations for the merging of the Willamette Valley Bank and the Benton County National Bank, at Corvallis, is proceeding, but the consolidation will not be accomplished until June 1.

In a written opinion submitted to the railroad commission, the attorney-general holds that the commission has no power under the act of 1907 to require railroads to fence their tracks or inclose their right-of-ways.

The state convention of the young people's branch union of the Oregon conference of the United Brethren in Christ closed its state convention at Salem last week. A resolution favoring the proposed union of the churches of the Evangelical association, the Methodist Protestant and the United Brethren denominations was adopted. The convention also went on record as opposed to the "home rule" bill which will be upon the June ballot, declaring it a measure in favor of the saloons.

The Ashland mine, which has been closed some 7 or 8 years, is to be put in operation again. The property has come into the possession of a Los Angeles company and work has commenced already in the renovation of the mine. It will have to be pumped out below the 500-foot level, and some retimbering must be done. New hoisting and pumping machinery will be installed as the plant was pulled out of the mine when it was closed down by the Oregon & Montreal company, its former owners. The Ashland was a great gold producer 12 years ago. It had yielded about \$1,000,000 up to the time it was closed by the Montreal company.

"Another bag of gold was brought into Grants Pass last week from Williams Creek by Harrison Bros., the two prospectors who uncovered a bonanza in that district recently. These men have cleaned up \$20,000 in the past two weeks and have \$75,000 in sight. Most of this is pure gold taken from shallow deposits."

Professor G. A. Peebles, who has been almost continuously engaged in public-school work in Oregon for 30 years, has resigned the position of principal of a Salem school and will retire from active work on account of his health.

During a pellmell rush to get away from a baseball game at Portland, Sunday, a crowd broke the top rail for several feet on the top of the bleachers and several spectators fell to the ground. Mason Roberts, a youth, received a badly wrenched back and broken collar bone.

Assessor Cornelius, of Clatsop County, will probably raise the valuations of that county \$3,500,000 over that of last year. Rough lands and lands on which there is standing timber will be advanced 25 per cent, while on timber, railway property and merchandise the increase will be in the neighborhood of 40 per cent.

Selection of Albany as the place for the next meeting, installation of officers and a street parade in which nearly 500 Oddfellows and Rebekahs participated, were the principal incidents of the last day of the session of the Oddfellows' grand lodge, at Salem, last week. There was a close contest between Hood River and Albany for selection as the next meeting place, but the latter won out by a narrow margin.

Dr. Gustav Barr, of Portland, delivered an address at the Congress of Physicians in Vienna, Austria, April 10, and was accorded great honors. With only one exception, they all

owed Dr. Barr double the time allotted to each speaker, the only other exception being Dr. Osler, of Boston. Out of 300 doctors at the congress only three were elected to membership, Dr. Barr receiving one of the memberships.

War between gillnets and wheels in the salmon fisheries of the Columbia river has reached such an acute stage that wheelmen say gillnetters have resorted to misrepresentation of wheels in order to injure them before the voters of the state. As a result, F. A. Seufert, of The Dalles, wheelman and canneryman, has threatened to sue for damages the Columbia River Salmon Protective Association for publishing a diagram representing wheels, including Seufert's, as practically blocking passage of salmon up the river.

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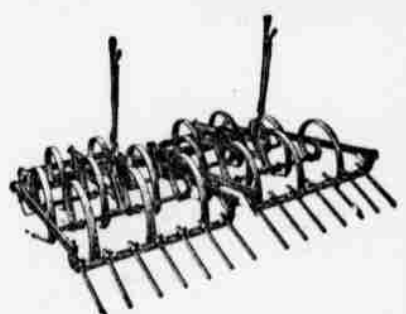
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At the Close of Business, May fourteenth, 1908.

RESOURCES.

Loans and Discounts.....\$276,788.87
Bonds, O. R. & N. 4's..... 25,000.00
Office Fixtures and Furniture..... 3,170.00
Cash on hand and in other Banks..... 136,379.90
Total.....\$441,338.77

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock.....\$ 50,000.00
Earned Surplus and undivided profits..... 21,278.58
Deposits..... 370,060.19
Total.....\$441,338.77

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