A DOUBLE MIND.

An Expert Stenographer Who Can Write and Speak Simultaneously.

"How long have you lived here?"

The lawyer was taking the deposition of a witness in his office in the Mills Building, New York. The pencil of the stenographer was moving rapidly over his paper, leaving behind it a string of pothooks and other absurd symbols of speech.

"You say that you have known the defendant for the past ten years? Now, I want to ask you whether at any time during that period you ever noticed any symptom of insanity in his behavior?" continued the lawyer.

At the instant the lawyer began his query the stenographer turned to the reporter, who was seated by his side at the table, and, without stopping his writing for a second, whispered: "Wait a moment and I'll be through. This won't last much longer."

The reporter looked anxiously at the notes, expecting to see the pencil stop its travels, or at least at the end of the questions, retrace its steps to revive some phrases incorrectly transcribed. But it made no such break. When the lawyer ended his inquiry the pencil stopped.

"Now, sir," continued the lawyer, "you may tell me whether you were well enough acquainted with the defendant to know whether he showed any weakness of mind or not?"

Before the stenographer had completed the second line of his report he again whispered to the reporter not to be in a hurry, and, as before, concluded his work without a particle of apparent interruption. This was the last question, and after the papers were gathered together and the witness had left the office, the reporter asked the stenographer whether he had written correctly all that was said verbatim or had only epitomized what had been spoken.

"I wrote exactly what was said. Why do you ask?"

"Can you read it without difficulty?"

"Of course I can, otherwise I should not be here; but why do you ask?"

"I didn't see how you could write down what was being spoken and speak to me upon another subject at the same time."

"That is easy enough to do," responded the stenographer with a laugh, "when you only know how and practice long enough. Shorthand writing is very much like playing the piano or repeating something from memory. It is mechanical. I found years ago when I was reporting in a Western court, that it was extremely useful to be able to hear and think of other things transpiring in the court-room than the evidence itself. I then began practising so that I could train myself to do two separate things at the same time. I would mentally make note of every thing occurring around me and keep on with my writing. At first I would make a mistake or two, but gradually I got so that I could hear every thing that was said, and I understood it, too, notwithstanding the fact that my pencil was moving all the time."

"I should think that when you began to speak it would have thrown you off your track?"

"It did at first. I learned that by committing to memory some poem and repeating it while I was reporting, until at last I could carry on a conversation on almost any subject and write from dictation upon one entirely different. It's a very useful accomplishment, but I wouldn't advise you to learn it unless you intend to become a professional stenographer, and I wouldn't advise that unless you have nothing better to do than to break stones in the street." —*N. Y. Post.*

HYSTERICAL EPIDEMIC.

Outbreak of a Queer Convulsionist Mania in the Province of Rome.

A curious outbreak of convulsionist mania, analogous to those which occurred from time to time during the Middle Ages, has shown itself at Agosta, in the province of Rome.

For some weeks past the country people have been laboring under the delusion that the district is under the immediate government of the Evil One, and before retiring to rest they carefully place on the threshold the broom and the salt, which are accredited with the power of keeping off evil spirits. Many of the younger women have epileptiform attacks, during which they utter piercing screams and are violently convulsed. So serious had the condition of things become that the syndic of Agosta found it necessary to inform the prefect, who sent detachments of soldiers into the district in order to calm the apprehensions of the inhabitants.

As a natural consequence of this condition of mental perturbation, the country is overrun with quacks who claim to possess the only infallible remedy for the seizures. One of these nostrums, the vendor of which was making a rich harvest from its sale, was found on analysis to consist of earth, snuff and borax. Three medical men who were commissioned to investigate the cause and nature of this extraordinary affection came to the conclusion that it was an epidemic of hysterics.

They examined a number of the sufferers, mostly young women, some of whom were alleged to have vomited nails, horse-shoes, and other equally indigestible substances, while others barked like dogs. Several of them were removed to Rome for treatment in the hospitals there, and measures have been taken to check the spread of the mischief.

In a milder degree this contagious form of hysteria is not infrequent, especially in places where ignorance and superstition favor manifestations of nervous disorders. The worst excesses of popular outbreaks, like the French revolution, have been attributed to similar influences, and with every appearance of justice. —*British Medical Journal.*

—Krupp's great gun for the Italian navy weighs 118 tons, is 45 feet long, and its internal caliber is nearly 16 inches, rifled with 92 spiral turns. It throws a steel projectile weighing nearly a ton, with a charge of 6 cwt. of brown prismatic powder, having an initial velociety of 614 yards in a second and a range of nearly 8 miles; the shot can penetrate a steel armor-plate 36 inches thick immediately at the mouth of the gun, and a plate 29 inches thick, it is estimated, at a distance of a mile or more. —*Public Opinion.*

HER FIRST SEA BATH.

Notes Made by a Careful Student of Feminine Nature.

This is a truthful and most accurate description of how a woman acts when she first puts on a bathing suit and appears before the world in it. At first sight of it she giggles convulsively and titters out:

"Oh, I never, never can let anybody see me with that on!"

"Oh, yes you can. Put it on," cries some hardened companion who has been in before. "Every body wears them."

"But I'll look so awful!"

"Who cares? Nobody'll know you."

Then she gets into it giggling furiously. "Oh, I just can't go out in it."

"Yes, you must."

"But how can I."

"Bah; nobody'll notice you in the least."

"But I know I look perfectly dreadful."

"Well, every body else looks so, too."

"I know, but I (giggle) I shall die if I see anybody I know."

"You ready?"

"Yes, I—I—guess so! Oh, I just don't believe I can go, after all. Don't I look awful?"

"Pooh! no! Come on!"

"I can't bear to. Tee, hee, hee, hee!"

But she does all the same, giggling frantically, until she reaches the water, when she shrieks out:

"Oh, it's cold! Ugh! Hee! he! I'll look so awful when I'm wet! O-o-o-o-h, it's dreadfully cold!"

And when she comes out and is dressed again she bores every body she knows by saying over and over again:

"Oh, I think it's just lovely to bathe! I'm going in every day! Isn't it fun? I just love to lie down and let the waves run over me! I ain't one bit afraid now! I was awfully frightened at first! I don't mind my looks one bit now! I'd like to have my photograph taken in my bathing suit! It'd be jolly fun, wouldn't it? I got some water in my mouth, and isn't it salty? Oh, its just splendid! I'm going in three times some days! I believe it'll do me good! Oh, I'm wild over bathing! It's just too perfectly lovely and jolly for any thing." —*Tid-Bits.*

CHEAP OIL PAINTINGS.

How They are Dashed Off in New York Picture Galleries.

"See that picture yonder?" asked a local "art" dealer of a reporter, pointing in the direction of a big landscape surrounded by a showy frame. "It took just thirty-six minutes to paint it. How was it done? I'll tell you. So far as I know there are no places in Philadelphia where this class of work is done, but in New York dozens of men make good livings painting such pictures by the yard. The work is simple. A piece of canvas nearly a hundred feet long is stretched in a gallery shaped like a corridor. On the picture under notice, which, by the way, you can have for $4.50, frame and all, five men were employed. Each man had his particular line. One man put in the foreground, another the background, and still another did the clouds and cows that you see browsing in the pasture. A fourth man did the trees and shrubbery. In this way they were enabled to work fast. In exactly three hours five of these landscapes were finished, which is thirty-six minutes' time given to each. The fifth man did the finishing touches, and, perhaps, performed more and better work than any of the others."

"Are all cheap pictures painted in the same way?" the reporter asked.

"Nearly all. Occasionally a fairly good artist will become hard up, and during these times he will sell the products of his brush for almost nothing. Never buy the oil paintings that are peddled about the streets by men who say they are artists. You will only get left. The frames on all those that you see on the wall are worth double the amount of the pictures themselves. O, yes, there's some money in this business, but not so much as formerly." —*Philadelphia Times.*

A Theatrical Dicker.

"What arrangements have you made regarding my salary this season?" asked a leading man of the manager.

"I have put you down for thirty dollars per week."

"How much will you say it is on the posters."

"Three hundred a week."

"Only three hundred a week. I can't agree to that. My professional reputation won't stand it. I'll tell you what you do. Give me twenty-five dollars a week and make it five hundred dollars on the bills." —*Merchant Traveler.*

Preparing for the Worst.

"Mourning goods, please," she said to the floor walker.

"Yes madam, this way, if you will;" and then he added feelingly, "death is a sad thing, madam."

"It is indeed!" responded the lady, "I'll not make any purchases this morning, I only want to see the latest things you have in the mourning line; my husband is a very sick man." —*Drake's Traveler's Magazine.*

—Bismarck's wife is an interesting woman. She is more than sixty years of age, very tall, and very gray. Her features are prominent and her cheekbones very high. Altogether she has a strong face. She is a women of very determined character and not unlike "iron chancellor" himself in obstinacy. She is fond of talking and speaks in a loud and decided voice.

—"Oh, pray let me have my way this time," said a young gentleman to his lady love. "Well, Willie, I suppose I must this once; but you know that after we are married I shall have a Will of my own." —*Harper's Bazar.*

—Apparently hopeless — "Do you think, Miss Clara," he asked, with infinite tenderness in his voice, as he handed her the bill of fare, "that one's appetite is affected when one is in love?" "I haven't a doubt of it," she replied, scanning the bill of fare; and then she turned to the waiter and said: "Roast-beef, rare, please, with plenty of fat, mashed potatoes, corn, parsnips and boiled onions."

CURIOUS CEREMONIALS.

Annamese Customs That Savor Much of Another World Than Ours.

The curious philosophical views of life which appear to be common to the races of the Chinese stock, and the elaborate ceremonials by which they are symbolized and emphasized, give a rare interest to all that relates to the manners and customs of those peoples, whatever may be their particular nationality. Nowhere are these features more marked, or do they savor more of another world than ours, than in Annam. We are indebted to certain French writers, whom military and political events have given rare opportunities to observe, for some fresh and original accounts of the inhabitants of this country, and of their characteristic beliefs and usages. M. Henry M. d'Estrey has given, in the *Revue Scientifipue*, descriptions of the principal ceremonies prescribed in the rites to commemorate the most important events in life, which are six in number, viz.: 1. *Gea Ke*, or the imposition of a pin in the hair-dressing of a maiden on her reaching puberty; 2. *Gea Quan*, or the imposition of the virile bonnet on the head of a young man when he reaches adult age; 3. *Quan*, or the feast in celebration of obtaining a first employment; 4. *Hon*, or the marriage ceremonies; 5. *Tauq*, or funeral ceremonies; 6. *Te*, or the ceremony of ancestral worship.

The first two ceremonies are celebrated by the relatives, in the family. When a maiden has reached the age of fifteen years, the father and mother adorn the two altars erected to the ancestors of their respective families, invite the near relatives, and select, as president of the ceremony, an aged lady, of high repute for virtue and good sense. While the lights are burning among perfumes, two masters of ceremonies, one at each end of the altar, call off the order fixed by the rites. The father and mother then come up to the altars, and say in a low tone: "It is our duty to inform our ancestors that our daughter is, according to the rites, marriageable from this day, and that the age of fifteen years, which she has reached, gives her the right to wear the pin." They then prostrate themselves four times, and the other relatives follow, imitating them. Next, the maiden is brought up to the altar, and the lady who presides over the ceremony, or sometimes the mother herself, takes the pin from off the altar and places it in the hair of the maiden, when, after having saluted the altars four times, she takes her back into the house. At any time after this the maiden may marry. The ceremony is followed by a festival, which is attended by the participants.

The ceremony of the imposition of the virile bonnet upon the young man who has reached the age of twenty years is performed with similar observances; but the father or an old man takes the place of the mother or aged lady in making the investiture.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

POWER OF ROBORITE.

An Explosive Which Distances Dynamite in Its Dreadful Work.

Some interesting experiments have lately been made in Westphalia with the new German explosive known as roborite, for the purpose of showing its advantages over dynamite. The statement that the former compound is stronger than the latter has been declared to be a gross exaggeration of facts, and the possibility of their being any thing like equality between them has been pooh-poohed as unreasonable and absurd. But if the reports which I have received are worthy of credence—and they come with apparently unquestionable authority—roborite has made good its claim of equality, at least.

The first experiments undertaken were to demonstrate the superiority of the new explosive in its ability to stand friction and heavy blows. Small quantities laid upon an anvil and struck with a sledge hammer stood the test very satisfactorily. Afterward a large quantity was burned to show that even when a thick mass no explosion occurs when merely ignited by the application of flame. In the trials for strength a 2¾ ounce cartridge of dynamite was laid upon a rolled steel rail of English manufacture and covered with a sod turf. When fired by an electrical fuse, the rail was bent and rifts were opened in the metal at the place where the cartridge lay. A roborite cartridge of the same weight, exploded under the same conditions, broke a similar rail asunder.

Next a charge of 3¼ pounds of dynamite was laid upon a Siemens-Martin steel armor plate, covered with earth and fired. The effect was to slightly bend the plate. The same charge of roborite completely shattered a similar plate. The value of roborite in blasting down coal is testified to by numerous engineers and colliery managers in the Westphalian district. It is said to give little or no flame, and to shatter less than dynamite. This latter statement is not so easy to reconcile with the violent action exerted upon the rail and the plate in the experiments described. The writer of the testimonials alluded to denies that products of combustion are more injurious to health than those resulting from the explosion of dynamite.—*Colliery Engineer.*

—Perils of the Deep.—Wife (in the cabin, anxiously)—"What's the trouble on deck, Charlie?" Yacht-owner—"The jib-sheet is lost overboard." Wife—"Well, why don't they come and take one from the state-room?"—*Tid-Bits.*

—The ancient Mexicans made pictures with the colored plumes of humming birds, after the manner of mosaic.

—In 1850 we had in the United States some 3,642,694 school children, and the entire amount then being expended for educational purposes was $16,162,000.

—At the last religious census of Switzerland, taken in 1880, the little republic contained 1,667,109 Protestants; 1,160,782 Catholics; 7,373 Jews, and 10,838 of other religious affiliation.

—One hundred new students are enrolled this year in Lafayette College, making a total of two hundred and seventy-eight. One of the freshmen is the son of the head of the department of Marine Engineering in Japan.

The British government has decided to banish King Jaji, of Oporbo, West Africa, to St. Helena. The king recently caused 150 of his subjects to be beheaded as a warning to others not to permit traders to get into the interior.

READ THE DEATH ROLL

Which the bills of mortality of any large city may be fitly designated, and you will find that renal and vesical maladies, that is to say, those that affect the kidneys or bladder, have a remarkable prominence—we had almost said—preponderence. Bright's disease and diabetes in the chronic stage are rarely cured, and gravel, catarrh of the bladder and enuresis, slay many. Yet at the outset, when the trouble merely amounts to inactivity of the organs involved, the danger may be nullified by that pleasant renal tonic and diuretic, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which imparts the requisite amount of tone to the organs, without over-exciting them, and the use of which is convenient, and involves no elaborate preparation. Dyspepsia, a usual concomitant of renal complaints, and debility, which they invariably produce, are remedied by it. So also are constipation, malarial, rheumatic and nervous ailments.

Gen. O. B. Wilcox is brigadier-general commanding a department in the Missouri division.

"**HOW CAN SHE EVER LOVE HIM?**" is what you often hear when the prospective groom is the victim of catarrh. "How can she bear such a breath?" "How resolve to link her destiny with that of one with a disease, that unless arrested, will end in consumption, or perhaps in insanity?" Let the husband that is, or is to be, get Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy, and cure himself before it is too late. By druggists.

Jefferson Davis has completed his seventy-ninth year.

ST. VITUS' DANCE CURED.

FARMINGDALE, L. I., N.Y., Sept. 2, 1885.

I have been troubled for several years with an affection of the nerves which no doctor or no medicine could cure until I tried BRANDRETH'S PILLS. I would be taken with a violent pain in the middle of my spine, and my arms and legs would twitch violently. It acted something like St. Vitus Dance, for I couldn't control my limbs. It would come and go once or twice a month, lasting two or three days at a time. Finally, at the beginning of one of my attacks, I took five BRANDRETH'S PILLS. As soon as they acted freely I found myself almost well. So I continued taking them for a month—one or two a night. It is now a year since I have had an attack, and I attribute my cure to BRANDRETH'S PILLS. FRANCES WOOD.

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Use after each meal **Scott's Emulsion** with Hypophosphites. It is as palatable as milk, and easily digested. The rapidity with which delicate people improve with its use is wonderful. Use it and try your weight. As a remedy for Consumption, Throat affections and Bronchitis, it is unequaled. Please read: "I used Scott's Emulsion in a child eight months old with good results. He gained four pounds in a very short time."—THO. PRIM, M. D., Alabama.

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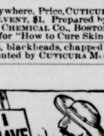

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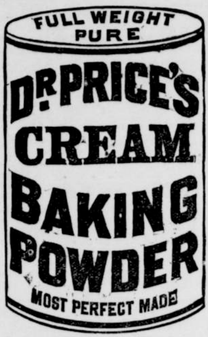

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—Mrs. Jennie Webster, of 1009 Chestnut street, St. Louis, found a man under her bed one evening recently. In the absence of her husband she was perusing some old love letters, the package fell to the floor, and in recovering it she discovered the intruder's feet. She quietly left the room, summoned an officer, and the would-be burglar was captured. Mrs. Webster then swooned in the most approved fashion.

—Engineer William Dart, of the steam tug U. Dart at Brunswick, Ga., reports seeing a rattlesnake the other day "coming in from sea." The steamer was near the lighthouse when his snakeship was discovered coming in with the tide, head erect, but with rattles trailing in the water. The rattlesnake usually swims with both head and tail erect, the latter waving from side to side, like that of a dog. This one must have been swimming a long time, and was no doubt exhausted, hence allowed the rattles to trail in the water.

—The experiments made by M. Mohlenbruck seem to show that in the mesmeric condition an electric current may have a powerful inductive action upon the human nerves. In the first experiment a watch was placed near the microphone and the ring placed upon the head of the mesmerized subject, who immediately began to beat time with the ticking of the watch when the microphone contact was touched with a quill feather he placed his fingers in his ears, and on the microphone being removed to a distant apartment and the connection of the circuit completed, as before, a violin was played in the distant room, the patient showing the most distinct indications that he heard the music.

—At Washington one night last week a lady retired to rest with a heavy feeling in the region of her heart. After sleeping an hour or two she was suddenly awakened by the sound of heart-beating like a hammer striking some metallic substance, while the pressure around her heart seemed to be inclosed. She awakened her husband, a light was struck, she thought she was dying. In about an hour, when the clock struck, it was discovered that the striking of the clock had been mistaken for the beating of her heart. Another lady had a cancer that, developing very rapidly, it was so sore that no one was allowed to touch it. After several days of bodily pain and mental anguish the sore proved to be a tick-bite, with the persevering insect still tugging away at it. So much for imagination.

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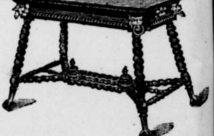

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