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**FEAR AS A MALADY**

Physicians Now Recognize Many and Strange Phobias.

**PHASES OF MORBID FRIGHT.**

Persons Otherwise Strong Mentally May Develop a Dread of Open or Closed Places, of Crowds, of Solitude and, in Fact, of Anything.

Fear as a disease had not received serious attention until recent years. Now it is recognized by the medical profession that there is a whole list of phobias, as they are called, which are quite distinct from a normal and legitimate condition of fear due to some natural cause.

Thus there is the fear of open or closed places, says the Medical Record, fear of high places, fear of men or women, fear of crowds and of solitudes, fear of animals, fear of insects, fear of darkness, fear of accidents, fear of fire, fear of travel and, in fact, fear of anything.

There is no end to the absurdity of acts which may be occasioned by these persistent ideas of fear. Those that possess the fear of riding on a train find no pleasure in traveling; those that have fear of closed places do not enjoy going to church and generally always sit near the door ready to fly at the first sign of danger.

Various fears may also develop in connection with the occupation of the patient—for instance, barbers sometimes suffer these attacks whenever they see a razor, or telegraphers when they catch sight of their instruments, which finally necessitates giving up the occupation.

Among women especially there occurs the fear of dirt, contagion or infection. The countless bacteria always present in the air are the chief source of annoyance. The patients are always complaining of bad air and are always throwing open the windows. Books are especially avoided as a possible source of contagion. In patients with fear of injury they will throw away all needles in the house or they will no more wash windows for fear that the glass might break and cut them.

The intellect in these cases is not only undisturbed, but may be unusually good. Patients exhibit throughout a pronounced feeling of mental illness and frequently a clear insight into the morbidity of the individual symptoms.

The more common of the various phobias as classified by Beard are as follows: Claustrophobia, fear of narrow or closed places; agoraphobia, fear of open places; astraphobia, fear of lightning; monophobia, fear of being alone; pathophobia, fear of disease; mysophobia, fear of contamination; siderodromophobia, fear of rail road travel; acrophobia, fear of being at a height or looking over precipices; thanatophobia, fear of death.

It is to be emphasized that the phobias in question are not normal fears, based, as normal or natural fears are, on some reasonable justifying experience. A reasonable and justifiable normal fear of lightning might arise after the experience of having been at some time in a house struck by lightning.

Other fears, such as the fear of riding in a buggy after having been in a runaway or the fear of a voyage at sea or railway after a frightful shipwreck or railway accident, is a more or less natural or reasonable fear, as the fear of hoodoos and ghosts is among the superstitious or those accustomed to ghost stories and tradition of goblin visitation, etc.

These fears do not require a warped brain for their lodgment, though the weakened brain may be more vividly impressed by them. To be regarded as symptoms of disease these fears must be groundless so far as influences external to the brain are concerned. They must proceed from a morbid state of the brain and not from properly exciting external causes. They must be fears peculiar to the individual under peculiar circumstances of cerebral disturbance and not fear common to others and due to causes that naturally cause alarm and frighten.

**Monkeys and Gum.**

In tropical countries the natives have many unique ways of catching monkeys. One of them, as explained by a traveler, is this: The hunters walk about in short boots in sight of the monkeys. Then they take the boots off, place some gum in the bottoms and leave them on the ground, withdrawing themselves to a great distance. Presently the monkeys come down from the trees and try on the boots, and when the hunters come after them the boots stick to the feet of the monkeys and they are unable to climb. Thus the imitative little animals are captured.

**Executive Ability.**

"You say Mr. Flubson has great executive ability?"  
"Yes," replied the cynical office holder.  
"What makes you think so?"  
"Because he manages to hold a job without being competent to do any kind of real work."—Washington Star.

**Cute Girl.**

"How did she manage to get so many offers of marriage?"  
"She had her picture taken with a frying pan in her hand."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Spend not all you have, believe not all you hear and tell not all you know.

**BANK OF ENGLAND NOTES.**

Always Fresh and Clean, as They Are Issued Only Once.

There is as great a difference between the systems of issuing and redeeming the notes of the Bank of England and of the banks of the United States as there is in the appearance of the notes themselves.

The English note is somewhat longer and much broader than ours, is of rough white paper, with ragged edges, and is printed on one side only, with a few words and with no pictures or designs, while ours are completely covered on both sides with vignette and lathework.

Our notes are issued again and again until they become so worn that they are no longer serviceable. A Bank of England note is never issued more than once. Every note that comes in is canceled at once, and then it is stored away with other canceled notes to be preserved for a certain period, when it is destroyed by burning.

It takes many clerks to keep the record of notes issued and paid, and so accurately is this work done that the date when any note was issued, the person receiving it, the time when it was paid into the bank and by whom, can be ascertained from the books. If the time was within five years the note itself can be produced.

Many are the stories of attempts to counterfeit these notes, which have always been failures. As the average time between the issue and the payment of the notes is only five or six days the fact that a counterfeit is in circulation is known almost at once, and the system of English bankers and merchants of keeping the numbers of the notes received and paid gives the clue whereby the offender is quickly apprehended.—Exchange.

**A TIP ON CHECKS.**

Advice by a Woman Who Always Fills Out the Stub First.

The west side woman was paying with a check for some articles she had bought at a department store, and she was carefully filling in the stub of her check book first. "Oh, don't stop for that," urged her shopping companion, who was in a hurry. "You can do that when you get home."

Unmoved, the west side woman finished the stub with special care, then wrote the check, gave it to the sales man and said to her impatient friend: "Before I was married I took care of some of my father's accounts. The first time he ever asked me to fill out a set of blank checks for him so he could sign them he told me: 'One rule you must always observe—write the stub first. Make a vow to yourself, like unto the vow of Jephthah, that you will never write a check until the stub is filled. If for any reason you should fail later to write the check it would be a simple matter to cancel the stub, but if you write a check and leave the stub blank you open the door to a hundred chances of mistake. No one's memory can be trusted on that subject. Never try to trust yours. Let the law of 'the stub first' be to you as the law of the Medes and the Persians.' I have always found it perfectly easy to follow that rule, and that is one reason I have a bank account today. My husband is never afraid I will make him any trouble with it."—New York Press.

**A Safe Proceeding.**

Lord Lyons, English minister at Washington during the war between the states and afterward ambassador to France, was a diplomatist to the core. He was exceedingly tactful in action and had the rare art of keeping his own counsel. When Sir Edward Blount called upon him one day at the embassy in Paris he found that a well known journalist had preceded him. The visitor was laying down the law in a loud tone, and when, after his departure, Sir Edward was received he took the liberty of saying:

"May I be allowed to ask if it is quite wise to discuss state secrets in such a loud tone? I heard every word that was said, my lord, as I sat in the anteroom."

"Ah!" said Lord Lyons. "But even then you could not hear what I said, for I said nothing."

**Ancient Stone Workers.**

Egyptian stone workers 4,000 years ago had a surprising knowledge of what are considered modern tools. These pyramid builders operated with solid and tubular drills and straight and circular saws. In handling the tubular drills, which were of superior quality, the skill of the artisan was so remarkable that the cutting marks in granite show no indication of wear of the tool, while a cut of a tenth of an inch was made in the hardest rock at each revolution. A hole through both hard and soft material was bored perfectly smooth and uniform.

**Her Account.**

"I should like to open an account at this bank, if you please."  
"We shall be glad to accommodate you, madam. What amount do you wish to deposit?"

"Oh, but I mean a charge account, such as I have at the big dry goods stores."—Chicago Tribune.

**Explained.**

"Now they claim that the human body contains sulphur."  
"In what amount?"  
"Oh, in varying quantities."  
"Well, that may account for some girls making better matches than others."—London Opinion.

The necessity of circumstances proves friends and detects enemies.—Epictetus.

**BASEBALL ETHICS.**

When the Pitcher Has the Right to "Bean" the Batter.

In "The Right and Wrong of Baseball," in the American Magazine, Hugh S. Fullerton gives an interesting account of what is considered sportsmanship and what cheating in the national game. He writes:

"The best batters are those who 'crowd the plate'—that is, who stand as near the plate as the rules or the umpire will permit and lean over the corner of the rubber to make it difficult for the pitcher to pitch across that corner without taking a chance of hitting the batter."

"The players recognize the fact that the lines of the batter's position are obliterated within a few minutes after a game starts and that the umpires practically are helpless to enforce the rules or to tell while watching the course of a pitched ball whether or not the batter steps over the line. So it has become part of the unwritten law of the game that the pitcher may 'bean' (that is, pitch at the 'bean' or head) any batter who 'crowds' in order to drive him back from the plate. It is ethical under the players' code to hit and to injure any player who persists in encroaching upon the forbidden ground, and the batters themselves recognize this danger and accept it as part of the game."

**THRIVED ON MISFORTUNE.**

A German Peddler Who Insulted the Kaiser and Got Rich.

A German hawker, Hans Bauermeister, retired from business, having amassed a little fortune. According to a Paris contemporary, misfortune was the foundation of his success. The hawker's specialty was the sale of portraits of the imperial family.

His mode of haranguing his audience was something like this: "Buy a portrait of William I, whose motto was, 'I have no time to be wearied.'" "Who'll buy this Frederick II, whose prayer was, 'Teach me to suffer without complaining?'" "Do not fail to complete your collection and buy this portrait of our great emperor, William II, whose favorite phrase is, 'Augusta, you pack your trunks.'"

This last always brought down the audience, and in time the police, in another sense. Bauermeister was sentenced to sixty days for lese majesty. He did his time and on release restarted his business. He sold his portraits with the old formula until he came to that of the kaiser, and then he said, "I have learned to my cost that it is not lawful to repeat what he says so often." The people were just as well pleased, and the portraits sold splendidly.

**Verdi Was Right.**

When Verdi was putting the last touches to "Il Trovatore" he was visited in his study by a privileged friend, who was one of the ablest living musicians and critics. He was permitted to examine the score and run over the "Anvil Chorus" on the pianoforte. "What do you think of that?" asked Verdi. "Trash!" responded the connoisseur. Verdi rubbed his hands and chuckled. "Now look at this," he said. "Rubbish!" said the other, rolling a cigarette. The composer rose and embraced him with a burst of joy. "What do you mean?" asked the critic. "My dear friend," cried Verdi, "I have been making a popular opera. In it I resolved to please everybody except the purists, the great judges, the classicists like you. Had I pleased you I should have pleased no one else. What you say assures me of success. In three months 'Il Trovatore' will be sung and roared and whistled and barrel organed all over Italy." And so it proved.

**One Helped the Other.**

A lady was continually accusing her servant of extravagance without any real cause. The servant always bore this accusation patiently.

One day the servant informed her mistress that the coal had all been consumed. This was followed by the usual remarks on the part of the mistress, who finished up by saying:

"You evidently eat them."  
The next day the candles were all gone.

"Candles gone!" said the mistress. "Why, I bought half a pound only a fortnight ago."

"Oh, well," rejoined the servant, who could stand this sort of thing no longer, "I can tell you where the candles have gone. I ate them to grease my throat so that I could swallow the coal more conveniently!"—Pearson's Weekly.

**The Royal Fish.**

Sturgeon are abundant in Russia, where the fisheries are of great value. The flesh is eaten when fresh, but is chiefly smoked or salted. More than 10,000 fish are sometimes caught at a single fishing station. The eggs are removed in quantity from the ovaries and separately prepared as caviar. The annual value of the Russian sturgeon fisheries, including the production of isinglass, or fish gelatin, is estimated at \$5,000,000.

**A Personal View of Seward.**

I talked also with Seward, who looked dirty, rusty, vulgar and low; used such words as hell and damn and spoke very loud. I think better of Mrs. Lincoln for her excessive dislike of him.—"Life and Letters of George Bancroft."

**A Mistake.**

Circulation Man—That woman who wanted her name kept out of the paper yesterday has stopped her subscription.  
Editor—Why, we kept her name out.  
C. M.—That's the answer.—Toledo Blade.

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