

GHOSTLY FINGERS STRIP HIS BED

An Invisible Thief Repeatedly Steals the Covers.

THIS STORY FROM CINCINNATI

**Everywhere He Sleeps the Comfort
and Blankets Disappear in a
Mysterious Manner.**

Maysville, Ky., July 28.—Stuart Crane, who travels for a Cincinnati shoe house, is in a hospital in Chillicothe suffering from a complete nervous breakdown occasioned by his mental efforts to solve the mysterious disappearance of the bed clothes from nearly every bed in which he has reclined in recent years. Like the hero of Maupassant's masterpiece of ghost stories "The Bed," Stuart Crane has been

from a pitcher before the very eyes of the unfortunate, Crane is the hero of a tale that equals it in all but literary excellence. Instead of water disappearing from Crane's drinking pitcher, the clothes disappear from his bed. They evanesce, he knows not whither, and to add to the mystery they are never

round again once they are gone. Frequently Crane has paid hotel managers for the loss of the covering that they had provided for his aggravated nerves. To woo sleep Crane has kept a diary, after the fashion of Maupassant's tortured hero, and from it some of the data herein have been selected.

"Horta" that steals bed clothes was in February, 1903, in Hillsboro, Ohio. The next was Sept. 10, 1903. He says that on this date he was in Lexington, Ky., and retired about 10 o'clock. Before 1 o'clock the bed clothes had disappeared. He confesses that on this occasion he was frightened, but he did not ring for more, as the night was warm. He left the hotel the next day without saying anything to the clerk. The hotel management, however, missed the bed clothes, including

charged with packing them in his trunk. This he denied, but offered to pay the cost price of the missing articles. He returned to Lexington from Frankfort to settle the claim and

He asked the hotel people to search his trunk. They did so and were as puzzled as he. Business required that he remain in Lexington for several days, and after paying for two sets of bed clothes he moved to the Phoenix Hotel. That night the bed clothes again disappeared. Crane says by this time he was in a state of panic. He concluded that he was pursued by some terrible enemy.

Crane even thought there was something supernatural in the disappearance of the clothing and began to think about ghosts. He went to Louisville one day and stopped at the Gallop House. That night the bed clothes disappeared and he was thrown into a condition of terror. He left his trunk at the Gallop House and went to the Louisville Hotel, but the bed clothes disappeared from his bed there also.

The next night Crane locked and

just the same, Crane says he was to be married in October, but, after consulting the young woman, they agreed to postpone the wedding until the mystery could be solved. There were no further developments until June, 1906, when Crane attributed the strange phenomena to the forces of nature and tried to explain the mystery by its contributing it to somnambulism. One night he stopped at the Warner House in Chillicothe, Ohio. A street fair was on, and the hotels were crowded, so Crane doubled up with a friend, Bud

retired at 10 o'clock, and about 11 o'clock in the morning Bud kicked Crane and accused him of pulling off the covers. They had an argument and finally both fully awoke and set up to search for the missing article. They were not to be found.

Had Bellboys Watch.

Shortly afterward Crane arrived at Blanchester, Ohio. He appealed to the landlord, Eddie Hauk, of the Blindle House, to have one of the bellboys search in his room while he slept. Ben Kersey was selected to do a check of his game warden's room. About 11 o'clock in the morning Kersey rushed downstairs to find the

Jackson, Ohio, Crane pinned the bed clothes to the mattress. He awoke at 3 o'clock a.m., and the bed clothes were gone. For the next three nights Crane stopped at Caldwell, Cambridge, and New Philadelphia. The bed clothes disappeared at each place. When he arrived at Youngstown he was almost

...raving maniac. He was taken to the hospital, and that night, although there were four nurses in the ward, the bed clothes disappeared from his cot. Two days later he recovered sufficiently to explain to the physicians and tell his queer story.

Japs Seize German Ship.
Tokio, July 28.—The German steamer Lydia, 1,000 tons, has been seized by the Japanese near Loochoe.

in the Firth
of the Great Otago
Warships

Scotland. The Chatham extension scheme contemplated the expenditure of \$22,500,000. Explaining the reason for this step, Lieut.-Col. Lee said there was a probability that warships in the future would be fewer in number and greater in individual power. However, the berthing and docking space would be of the largest size. The admiral had decided that Rosyth possessed greater strategic and other advantages than Chatham. The plans had been prepared for a naval base of the most complete description so that extensions for future carrier bases could be acquired. The initial works, complete to

themselves, would cost \$12,500,000.