

Do You Believe in Witches?

Ancient Superstitions That Still
Frighten People.

Does belief in witchcraft exist to-day? It is possible that in these enlightened times there are still credulous people who hold the medieval idea of the existence of witches.

The answer to both questions, according to T. B. man who has just made a special visit to various parts of the country to investigate the matter, is "Yes; most emphatically!"

Not only (he writes) does this belief survive in remote districts. It also holds ground in more populous areas.

Here, for instance, is the opinion of the Rev. Hadley Rutter, the vicar of Gorsefield, upon whom I called when making my investigations:—

The Haunted House.

"Such belief," he said, "is far more widely held than people generally imagine. When I repudiate such superstitions my parishioners quote the Bible against me, and say, 'What about the Witch of Endor?' And what can I reply?"

"I was in charge of a parish in Somerset where we suffered from no fewer than six 'witches'! In my opinion the belief is pretty general in most rural districts. And where country people have settled in London even the belief in witchcraft has migrated with them."

"I went to Gorsefield, which is in the Fen country some miles from Wisbech, to investigate some strange happenings which had occurred at the farmhouse of Mr. Joseph Scrimshaw, a fruit farmer."

The place was said to be "haunted." About £200 worth of furniture had been damaged. Pictures were thrown down, ornaments swept from the mantelpieces and a five-hundred-weight piano was moved from its usual position and whirled about the floor as though dancing to jazz music!

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote to Mr. Scrimshaw and gave him some instructions as to how to stop the trouble. But the farmer's neighbours gave him different advice; they said he and his wife were "witched!"

Now comes the part that is almost unbelievable. A local "wise woman," a Mrs. Holmes, was called in to act as spellbreaker. I spoke to Mrs. Holmes after the operation.

"I made a fire-charm," she said. "Into an old medicine bottle I dropped some apple pips, two black-headed hatpins, and nail-parings and hair-clippings from the three living generations of Scrimshaws. Then I stuffed the bottle into the hottest and reddest part of the kitchen fire. As the bottle burst the spell was broken. I have tried this charm on other people who have been 'witched.' It has always been successful."

After the "casting-out," Mrs. Holmes was found dead in her cottage, and the superstitious said it was the "witch's" revenge!

A Wedding Day Mishap.

Another person upon whom I called—a wealthy fruit farmer—assured me that twenty years ago he was put under the curse of a "woman's ill tongue," which caused him great bodily pain. He was cured by the fire-charm.

I next learned of an old-age pensioner who "believed." He was a member of a collateral branch of Lord Rosebery's family. He was a well-educated man.

On his wedding day, as he was leaving the church with his bride, a reputed witch stopped them and said: "I will witch you for seven years—seven years and more!"

That was seventeen years ago, and the curse, as he told me sadly, "is still working itself out, for ill-fortune has dogged our footsteps all the time."

For belief in witchcraft the Fen country is outdone by the Channel Islands.

Thus, there is the curious habit of an old Guernsey peasant farmer. Slung over his shoulder he carries—and has done so for many years—a large empty basket. Week by week he tramps two miles from his house to Lancrese Common. Arrived at the common, he glances furtively around to see that he is not overlooked, and then "empties" the empty basket over the bushes. He believes that he thus rid himself of all the evil spirits the witches have crowded into his barn during each week!

Sir Henry Gauvain, medical superintendent of the "Trelcar Cripples" Home, Alton, Hants, reported an amazing case of witchcraft that came under his notice in one of the Channel Islands.

A man whose wife was dangerously ill consulted a witch doctor. He was told to form a circle of mercury poured on the ground. In the middle of the circle dragon's blood (reins obtained from Daemocrone dragons) was to be placed and fired. The experiment was undertaken, and death was predicted from the direction in which the smoke blew.

Drama of the "Evil Eye." The witch doctor, visited again, explained that the patient was under the influence of the "evil eye." To remove the spell the husband was directed to open his front door at

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Brins with it the call for a blood purifier that will aid nature in adjusting your blood and general system into fit shape for the warmer weather.

You yourself know, or ought to know how you feel—if you feel listless, lazy, not sick, but far from well, then you need a good

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Mandrake Bitters.

These Bitters are purely vegetable, and are a valuable alternative and strengthener and a purifier of the blood.

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midnight, and if anybody was discovered watching the house, that person would be the culprit. The spell could be removed only by drawing his blood.

The witch doctor's directions were observed. As ill-luck would have it, a harmless little man was discovered passing. He was inveigled into the house and his throat deliberately cut. Happily the unfortunate man made his escape, and was saved by a doctor's timely skill. The husband was sentenced, I believe, to one had belonged to an old woman who actually practiced witchcraft in London within the last few years. This woman learned the secret of the charm from her grandmother in South Devon, where its efficacy was—and is—believed in by the farmers and their labourers. Black witches are supposed to bring about the death of sheep and cows.

Mother Earth.

HOW SHE STORES UP KNOWLEDGE FOR US.

All over the world scientists are constantly employed in digging for history, and just at the present time popular interest in the doings of the ancients has been increased by the amazing discoveries made by Lord Carnarvon in the tomb of an Egyptian King.

But we need not go as far as Egypt to find ground which holds all sorts of interesting treasures of the past. Under the site of the new County Hall, opposite Westminster, there was found a large Roman host in excellent condition, and near it remains of boots similar to those worn by British workmen of to-day.

Horsehoes, too, were dug up, as well as coins of bronze, spear-heads, and gaming buttons.

At the War Office are kept powder tear bottles, spurs, clay pipes, pewter pots and other relics of the past found while digging the foundations for that lordly pile of buildings.

At Grimes' Graves, in Norfolk, a whole series of articles have been found, illustrating life in Britain long before Roman days. There are picks made of deer horn, hatchets of basalt, cups cut out of solid chalk, and no doubt used as lamps.

These "graves," so-called, are really shafts sunk by the ancient Britons to find flint for implements. Some were fifty feet deep.

A mile east of Dumbarton Castle, on the Clyde, has been unearthed a "barrow," a very ancient dwelling elaborately built on piles. The piles are of oak, which was evidently cut with stone hatchets and the wood is still sound. The transverse beams are of brick and ash.

A canoe thirty-seven feet long and hollowed, like Robinson Crusoe's boat, out of a single huge log, has been found there, also a bone, or whetstone, proving that these ancient people had metal implements. There are also bones of cattle, sheep, pigs and dogs.

At Ambleside, in Derbyshire, was found a lot of bread at least six centuries old, yet preserved by the action

of some property in the earth.

Every year fresh knowledge is added to our store. A most interesting discovery is that dentistry equal to modern work flourished in Ecuador at least two thousand years ago. A number of skeletons found in a cave contained teeth beautifully gold-covered and with very perfect gold fillings.

Chlorine for Colds.

An announcement indicating the possibility of curing influenza, tuberculosis, paralysis (paralysis of the insane), and other afflictions by poison gases is made by experts of the Army Chemical Warfare Service, who have been conducting experiments at the great Government poison gas factory near Baltimore.

The chemists assert that epidemics of influenza and colds can be checked almost instantly by the introduction of a weak concentration of chlorine gas into rooms occupied by persons exposed to infection.

The efficacy of "mustard gas" (dichloroethyl sulphide), as a specific they consider are demonstrated by the experiments of Lieut.-Col. Edward B. Vedder, of the Army Medical Corps, who inoculated guinea pigs with tuberculosis germs. Those also treated with a weak concentration of mustard gas, remained immune, while others contracted the disease.

The chemists claim that they have evolved a remedy if not an actual cure for paralysis, from burning the deadly gas known as Lewisite, composed of arsenious acid and acetylene gas. Forty-two persons committed to mental hospitals with paralysis were subjected to treatment. Twenty-one were later discharged cured and have taken up lucrative employment, while seven more are on the point of being discharged.

England Building Two Super-Power Airplanes.

LONDON, May 19.—(A.P.)—Great Britain is building a super-airplane of 600 horsepower which will attempt to break the world's speed record this summer. It will be capable of a speed of 250 miles an hour, and will take part in the Aerial Derby and the race around Britain for the King's Cup. Later it will go to France and contend for the Gordon Bennett Cup. It will be christened Mars XIV.

At the same time the British designers are completing one of the largest flying-boats in the world. It is fitted with four engines of a com-

blined horse-power of 2,800. The new flying-boat has a hull of triple thickness and is capable of cruising as a surface craft for long distances.

FOR SPRAINS, CUTS, BRUISES, SWELLINGS

Use the Old Reliable



Sand is Handy.

The value of sand as a cleansing agent is apt to be overlooked by many people nowadays.

Yet its uses are manifold. For instance, when a kitchen table has been badly kept, two or three scrubbing with hot water and plenty of sand will quickly whiten it again.

For scouring floor-boards there is nothing to equal a mixture of three parts of fine sand with two parts of soft soap and one part of lime. Damp sand is the best medium for removing stains and burns on plate-dishes.

Used dry and hot, silver sand will serve to cleanse all kinds of furs, except those that are white. Rub the hot sand into every part of the fur, then shake it out thoroughly, using a brush to remove the few particles that remain.

Odors of soap can be used up by dissolving them in boiling water to which a handful or two of sand has been added, and the mixture used for cleaning all kinds of stained kitchen utensils and for removing stains from the hands.

When tarring a fresh roof of a fowl-house or cycle-shed, sprinkle it well with coarse sand before the tar has time to set. This will double the life of the roofing material, as well as rendering it more perfectly weather-proof.

Finally, it may be mentioned that cut flowers will keep fresh very much longer if their stems are set in wet sand, instead of being merely immersed in water. One may also draw upon the sand-bag for filling vessels in which cuttings are put to root.

Household Notes.

Cress makes an attractive garnish for cream of Parmesan and pepper soup.

A jellied bouillon of chicken and veal is an appropriate first course for a spring luncheon.

The addition of a little tomato juice will give a slightly red tinge to a mold of meat jelly.

Cover afternoon tea cakes with confectioner's frosting and decorate with candied flowers.

A delicious dressing for cold asparagus salad is made by beating tomato catsup into whipped cream, and seasoning with salt and lemon juice.

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Do you think this condition of your Silver is in keeping with your idea of a well appointed table?

Then why not, when you decide on replacing your old ware, give place to it with the "Wallace" Brand, the Silver that refuses to wear and is guaranteed without time limit.

Start with the Tea Spoons and gradually complete your Set with the one pattern—there are several for you to choose from and the price is very moderate.

Tea Spoons cost \$8.00 for a Dozen.

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Stainless Dessert Knives,
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Stainless Table Knives,
12.00 dozen.

Plated Table Knives,
3.00, 4.00 & 5.00 dozen.

Zylonite Handled Knives,
3.50, 4.00, 5.00 dozen.

Ebony Handled Knives
& Forks 2.20, 2.75 doz.

White Handled Knives &
Forks, 2.40, 3.00 doz.

Pen Knives, 1.20, 1.50,
2.20, 3.00, 4.50 dozen.

Sheath Knives, 95c. 1.50,
2.00, 4.75 dozen.

Butchers' Knives, 6.75,
9.00, 12.00 dozen.

Kitchen Knives, 80c. 1.50
dozen.

Bread Knives, 3.75, 5.00,
6.50 dozen.

Patty Knives, 1.10, 2.00,
2.50 dozen.

Safety Razors,
No. 1 Safety Razors, 1
extra blade, 25c.

No. 2 Safety Razors, 3
extra blades, 1.00.

No. 3 Safety Razors, 6
extra blades, 1.20.

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extra blades, 1.75.

Best Quality Razor
Blades, 50c. dozen.

Razor Paste, 15c. Pkt.

Tea Spoons, 40c. 60c. 1.00
1.50, 2.00, 2.50 dozen.

Dessert Spoons, 60c. 80c.
1.35, 2.20, 2.75, 3.25
dozen.

Table Spoons, 80c. 95c.
1.50, 2.70, 3.50, 5.00
dozen.

Dessert Forks, 40c. 90c.
1.50, 2.00, 3.50, 6.00
dozen.

Table Forks, 55c. 1.20,
1.70, 2.50, 4.00, 7.25
dozen.

Preserve Spoons, 1.50,
2.00, 3.00 each.

Carving Knives & Forks,
1.50, 1.90 set.

Carvers in Cases, 4.75,
6.50, 8.00, 10.00 set.

Cutlery in Mahogany
Cases, 25.00 to 100.00
set.

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4.75, 6.00, 8.00 set.

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5.00 dozen.

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each.

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No. 5 Sheffield Steel, 3.00
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