

A POSSIBLE SOLUTION OF THE PUZZLING PROBLEM.—“A curious accident, in which the cigarette seemed to be the chief factor, was disclosed to us (writes the *Vigilant*) recently in a claim proof furnished the Preferred Accident Insurance Company. The minute details of the accident must be left to the imagination of the reader. But this much may be told. The claimant on entering a toilet room laid a lighted cigarette on the seat beside him. In disrobing he accidentally brushed the cigarette into the pan, and an explosion, accompanied by fierce flames, which burned him severely, immediately followed. The claimant's physician, who is also the company's physician, after describing in detail the serious injuries sustained by his patient, says he has had the plumbing examined by an expert plumber, who reported that neither illuminating nor sewer gas could have been present in the pan at the time of the accident. In the interests of unsuspecting humanity someone, we hope, will get to the bottom of this problem.”

Attendants frequently use benzine for cleaning pans. Very recent use of this light oil of petroleum would account for the painful accident described above. The burning cigarette lighted the evaporating benzine, and in the same way as a match to spirits in a China plate creates “snap-dragon,” or illuminates the Christmas pudding, the cigarette caused the flames which seemed to the disrobed sufferer “fierce.”

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