

AMBULANCE CHASERS.

How They Worry the Injured and Help to "Bleed" Street Car Companies.

(From the New York Tribune.) A man who has been knocked down by a New York street car the other day and carried into the back room of a drug store was thus addressed by the policeman bending over him: "Say, your whole family is outside. Which one do you want to see?" "Is my wife there?" asked the injured man, feebly. "No, but there's your father and your uncle, and six brothers and two brothers-in-law. It do beat all how they all got here ten minutes after the accident," added the policeman, a new member of the force.

If the lawyer had the prospect of paying out \$50 to \$100 from his own pocket. And rights of claimants would not be impaired, it is argued, because they would find some one to take up a worthy cause, and the corporations are constantly generous in their settlements out of court, paying more cash on the average direct to injured persons than the latter receive through litigation. A victim for the matter is not so big when half of it goes to an attorney, and the amount divides further when it comes at the end of twenty years of waiting.

A lawyer who goes in for the damage suit business has half a dozen chasers on his staff. They are keen young men with a nose for accidents and an ambition to beat their competitors. Some of them receive a small salary besides a contingent interest in the contingent fees of their employers. Each young man takes a certain district of the city, Italian, Yiddish or Irish, according to his knowledge of languages and the location of his home. He keeps with a telephone at his ear so that he may arise at any hour of the night and pursue his quarry. The whole squad of relatives made a football rush for the door, but permitted only the designated two to enter. Father had bristly red hair and an Irish jaw. Uncle was a sharp-faced youth of quite dissimilar features. The injured man was evidently of German descent. A strangely assorted family which would have interested any anthropologist, not taking into consideration the diverse racial types of the relatives outside.

"I'm from the company," exclaimed the Irish "facker," darting to the sufferer's side. "I'm from the office of Fix and Trix," declared the uncle, getting on the other side. "Sign this paper," chorused the alleged relatives in a breath, one holding forth a release of all claims against the company and the other a retainer empowering the law firm of Fix and Trix to bring suit for damages. "You're not hurt at all, my friend," said the company adjuster, with quick optimism. "You're very badly injured," declared the ambulance chaser, with mournful emphasis. "It's only a scratch—"

"It's a serious injury," muttered the policeman, as adjuster and chaser elaborated their contrary diagnoses of injury. "Don't listen to him—you'll be well in a week, and here's a bit of money for you on the spot," said the company representative, peeling off greenbacks from a check pocketed in haste and speed and recklessness of an expert jangling car. "Don't you do it—they're 1 million," shouted the runner. "Sign this retainer, and you'll get \$5,000 sure. Fix and Trix never got less than that from any jury. Look at this newspaper article—how we recovered \$15,000 last week for a leg and an arm—\$3,000 for foot. Don't let the company get you out of the corporation and be cheated out of your rights. "Money talks," said the adjuster, grimly. "Sixty-one, sixty-two, sixty-three—I'll give you \$75 right on the spot. You need it now, and God knows how many years it would be before you went through all the courts with a suit and then had to pay half to the lawyers and the other half to me. "I'll lend you money!" shrieked the chaser desperately. "By George! I'll do it out of my own pocket, and they can't call that illegal. Don't sell your birthright for a mess of pottage. Don't let that corporation shark do you out of thousands of dollars. "Here's the long green," and it's yours if you sign," reiterated the adjuster. "That cheap skate of an ambulance chaser hasn't got five cents for you. He's looking for his 25 per cent. commission, and when you get through with his 'shyster' boss you'll be ready for the poorhouse."

The harried victim might have succumbed to the double attack had not an ambulance arrived to transport him to the hospital. The squad of relatives followed by street car and in automobiles, but they were balked at the hospital gates. For days afterward, the sufferer lay in bed, an anguishing array of imaginary relatives came to see him. There were also dear personal friends and family members and long-lost cousins from South America. The injured man growl better and began to enjoy his callers. He finally greeted each new visitor with this grinning query: "Have you got a release or a retainer?" Ambulance chasing has become a business of enormous extent. It is estimated that from 10 to 20 per cent of the gross earnings of the New York street railway is spent in settling damage claims of injured persons in and out of court. The total reaches millions of dollars a year. Accidents on the Third Avenue system alone amount to twenty-five hundred in a year, and half of these cases are settled without litigation. A large legal staff is kept busy fighting suits, drawing appeals and making private settlements. Outside of street railway cases there is a vast field for chasers and adjusters in industrial accidents, where the factory owner or builder has insured himself against loss with an accident insurance company. Receiver Whitridge, of the Third Avenue system, has had introduced a bill in the Legislature designed to remedy one side of the chaser-adjuster evil. Nearly all the cases gathered by the chaser for his employer are on a contingent fee basis, whereby the lawyer suing the company gets 20 to 25 per cent of the damages awarded to his client by the jury. If the lawyer fails to win his case costs are assessed on his client, and the latter being often irresponsible there is no actual payment of costs. Mr. Whitridge's bill would eliminate "frivolous" suits by settling the costs upon the lawyer in all contingent fee cases. Litigation has less haste to enter program.

COMMERCIAL

NEW YORK STOCK QUOTATIONS. Chicago Market Report and New York Cotton Market.

CHI AND O WEST. Colo P and Iron, Consolidated Gas, Gen. Elec Co., Erie, Erie first Pfd., Erie second Pfd., Illinois Central, Kan and Texas, National Lead, Northern Pacific, N Y Central, North West, Ont and Western, Pacific Mail, P and G and Co., Reading, Republic Steel, Sloss Sheffield, Pennsylvania, Rock Island, St. Paul, Southern Ry., Southern Pacific, Texas Pacific, Union Pacific, U S Rubber, U S Steel Pfd., U S Steel, Wabash, Total sales in New York yesterday.

CHICAGO MARKET REPORT. May corn, wheat, pork, soy beans, etc.

MONTREAL QUOTATIONS. Dom Coal, Dom I and S P M, Dom I and S P M, N S Steel, etc.

NEW YORK COTTON MARKET. March, May, July, October.

MONTREAL MORNING SALES. Dom. Iron, Steel, etc.

WEDNESDAY. Dom. Iron, Steel, etc.

WEDNESDAY. Dom. Iron, Steel, etc.

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WEDNESDAY. Dom. Iron, Steel, etc.

WEDNESDAY. Dom. Iron, Steel, etc.

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LASHING FOR INCORRIGIBLES

Corporal Punishment Legislation May Be Passed at Ottawa

Dr. Gilmour, Warden of Central Prison, is Strongly in Favor of It

WEST TORONTO, Feb. 23.—Will legislation be passed at the present session of the Dominion Parliament providing for corporal punishment of youthful offenders who have been allowed out on parole and who again returned to crime? Such legislation may be initiated in a lecture given in the Salvation Army Citadel last night by Dr. Gilmour, Warden of the Central Prison, on the topic of "Prison Reform."

Warden Gilmour, in dealing with the question, emphasized the fact that the habitual criminal is one who enters upon a life of crime between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one, and he insisted that more than prison bars were necessary in many cases to act as a deterrent to further acts of crime.

PRISON INFECTION. "There is," he said, "a contagion and infection in any prison, which has the effect of imprinting crime indelibly upon those confined therein." The solution, he thought, lay in the way of stopping crime among youthful offenders, and this, he maintained, could be obtained in many cases in no other way than by the application of the lash.

Warden Gilmour said that he is so firmly impressed with this method that he was greatly interested in a controversy which recently took place in the House of Commons on the case of a corporal punishment, in the course of which the Minister of Justice condemned such barbaric customs.

MINISTER IN SYMPATHY. "I immediately wrote to Hon. Mr. Aylesworth," said the speaker, "and very forcibly expressed my opinions on this question, especially with respect to the punishment of youthful offenders who remain in living a life of crime and urging that steps be taken to inaugurate a system of corporal punishment in reply from the Minister of Justice, in which he entirely coincided in the views I set forth, and which legislation along these lines will be enacted by the Dominion Parliament at the present sitting of the House."

In concluding his address Dr. Gilmour asserted that the surest way to prevent crime is to get back to the roots of crime, he said, is the return of defective early environment and pernicious home surroundings. The solution in life was the proper and effective time to obtain lasting results.

ACCIDENT IN HISTORY WHICH CHANGED COURSE OF EVENTS (Edinburgh "Scotchman.") Chance has played a great part in the history of the world, and it will be found in the case of the American War with Great Britain in 1812. One of the chief causes of that war was the enforcement of the British of the Order-in-Council directed against the commerce of neutral nations.

It has relieved more cases of Backache and Local Weakness than any other remedy. It dissolves and expels tumors in an early stage of development.

Irregularities and periodic pains, Weakness of the Stomach, Indigestion, Bloating, Nervous Prostration, Headache, General Debility, quickly yield to it, also deranged organs, causing pain, dragging sensations and backache. Under all circumstances it acts in harmony with the female system.

It removes that wearing feeling, extreme lassitude, "don't care" and "want-to-be-left-alone" feeling, excitability, irritability, nervousness, dizziness, faintness, sleeplessness, flatulency, melancholy or the blues. These are indications of feminine disorders, which this medicine overcomes as well as slight derangement of the Kidneys of either sex.

Women who are sick and want to get well should refuse to accept any substitute for Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

FIRST GUN FIRED IN FIGHT AGAINST CONSUMPTION

New Brunswick Society Organized Last Evening—An Active Educational Campaign to be Conducted.

At a mass meeting held last evening in the Opera House there was formed what will be known as the Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in New Brunswick. Officers have been elected, the fight has opened with much enthusiasm and there every reason to believe that an active educational campaign against disease will be successfully conducted.

DR. W. T. BULL DEAD. ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 22.—A special despatch from Savannah says that Dr. W. T. Bull died there at noon today.

GRIPPLED BY SCIATICA. Made Well and Strong by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills After Doctors Had Failed.

Mr. H. W. Awall is one of the leading merchants of Hartford, N. S. A. He has been a great sufferer from sciatica. He says: "At the time I was afflicted I had an immense popular reputation. The attack was so severe that I had been out of work for some time. The doctors of my city had drawn up and I could only limp along with the aid of a stick. The pain I suffered was terrible. I was in misery both day and night. Every moment caused me such pain as only those who have been tortured with sciatica can understand. I was helped by several doctors, but they did not help me a bit. In fact, I almost began to feel that I was never going to be brought to my attention. I got a half dozen boxes, but they did not help me. I was encouraged and got a second half dozen boxes and a before long I was all gone every vestige of the trouble had disappeared. Not only this, but I was improved in health in every way, as it will be readily understood that the long sleep of pain I had suffered had left me badly run down. I was a weak, nervous, and nervous man. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I can't recommend them too strongly to other sufferers."

LONGBOAT REFUSES TO RACE WITH SHRUBB. BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 24.—Tom Longboat, the Marathon champion, has finally declined to meet Shrubbs here tomorrow night in a fifteen mile race and it is announced that Dorando will be substituted for him.

WOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION. WANTED—Waitress and kitchen girl Apply Union Chas. 54 Mill street, 24-2.

BOARDING AND ROOMS—Terms moderate. 12 Prince William St., upper door.

LOST—Gold bracelet watch. Finder will be rewarded on returning to Star Office. 24-2.

JUST RECEIVED A LARGE IMPORTATION OF Fancy Decorated Teapots

Showing the latest decorations and designs at lowest prices.

O. H. WARWICK CO. LTD., 78 TO 82 KING ST.

WIFE INVADES LODGE, HE OBTAINS DIVORCE

Woman Yanked Husband From Foresters' Meeting and He Sued. SPOKANE, Wash., Feb. 22.—Because his wife invades the lodge room of the Order of Foresters, where he was presiding as chief ranger at the trial of a member, broke up the meeting and forced him to go home, addressing him as "imp" and "Indian," George F. Gillette was granted a divorce from his wife, Anna Gillette, by Judge William A. Huwaka, in the Spokane County Superior Court.

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EMINENT AMERICAN SPECIALIST PASSES AWAY

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RETURN TO CAMERAPHONE AT OPERA HOUSE. Notwithstanding the fact that Bixby and Halcomb are billed to appear at the Opera House tonight, they will be substituted by a splendid camera show. The reason for this is a misunderstanding between the act and the management, traceable to a mistake on the part of the booking agent. There will be no disappointment for their booking for a delightful entertainment at the Cameraphone will supply one that cannot be excelled, owing to the receipt of a new lot of subjects from New York this week.

AUSTRALIA AND IMMIGRATION.

MELBOURNE, Feb. 22.—A compositor becomes prime minister of the Commonwealth, a miner now occupies the same exalted position, a stone-mason becomes premier of a state, and associated with him as ministers are a collar maker and a bricklayer," says the British Australasian, "and yet all powerful organized labor, hearing that a few thousand Englishmen are being attracted to Australia, warns them off by proclaiming that only destitute awaits them."

LARGE PIKE CAUGHT BY SKATERS.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—Skaters on Hocking Broad, Norfolk, saw an enormous pike through the ice. A hole was cut in the ice, and the pike, which weighed twenty-six pounds, was caught.

Pidgeon's Final Clearance of all Tailoring Fabrics is now limited to only a few more days.

This great sale will close Saturday night of this week. Make your selections now and avoid the rush of last minute shoppers. Special reductions below former reductions have been made for the remaining days of this week. Be sure to come and leave your order, as this is your last and best money-saving opportunity for another entire season.

C. B. PIDGEON, Corner Broad and Bridge Streets.